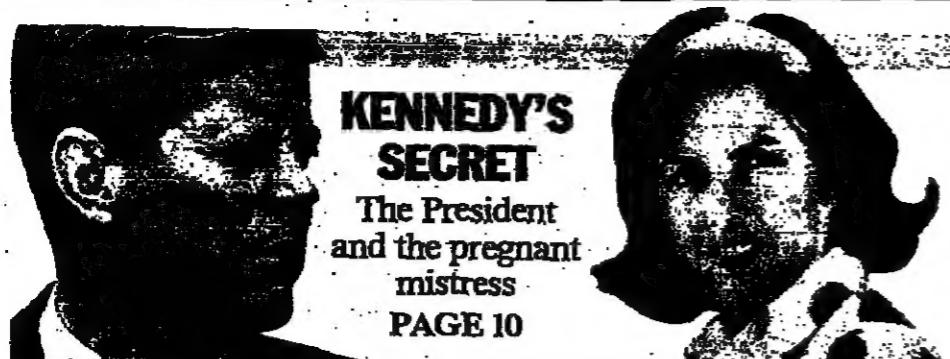


# THE TIMES

35P

No. 65,758

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11 1996

**KENNEDY'S SECRET**

The President  
and the pregnant  
mistress  
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**INTERFACE GIFT GUIDE**

The best  
gizmos that  
money  
can buy

**KAMA SUTRA: THE FILM**

Sex on the  
screen shocks  
India's critics  
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MIKE MOORE

Ministers 'were misled on pesticides'

## Civil servants accused over Gulf illness

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Government announced last night a wide-ranging £1.3 million inquiry into Gulf War syndrome after ministers said that the Commons had been misled over the use of chemicals on troops during the conflict.

Civil servants at the Ministry of Defence who gave false information to ministers about the use of potentially dangerous pesticides during the Gulf War could face dismissal. As the research study into the syndrome was announced, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, said that a separate investigation had begun into the action of civil servants who had caused ministers to mislead the Commons for more than two years.

The health implications arising from widespread use of organophosphate pesticides against disease-carrying insects in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will be considered in the new study by the Medical Research Council into the Gulf War illnesses that have affected more than 1,000 British servicemen and women.

Mr Soames, backed by Admiral Anthony Revere, the Surgeon-General, and Professor Alan McGregor, chairman of the Medical Research Council's advisory committee on Gulf War illness, confirmed to insist yesterday that there was no common denominator linking the various illnesses to justify calling them a syndrome. However, the two years it took for ministers to be told the truth about the scale of the pesticide spraying has given

memorandum questions in the Commons and in the House of Lords until September 25 this year when ministers were given the true picture.

David Clark, Labour defence spokesman, said: "The way in which Parliament was misled demonstrates the ministry's lack of commitment to getting to the bottom of the problem."

In the Lords, Earl Howe, a junior Defence Minister who has admitted inadvertently misleading Parliament on the use of organophosphate pesticides in the Gulf, denied any negligence.

A Defence Ministry team set up in October to investigate the use of pesticides discovered that huge stocks were bought in the Gulf, usually with Arabic instructions and no information in English on the ingredients.

The new epidemiological research, which will take three years, will involve two studies, each comparing the health records of 3,000 service people who went to the Gulf with those of 3,000 who did not.

Professor Nicola Cherry, of the School of Epidemiology and Health Sciences at Manchester University, will try to determine whether there was an excess of ill health among service people who served in the Gulf.

Dr Patricia Doyle, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, will study the reproductive health of Gulf War ex-servicemen and their children.

Pesticide study, page 2



A member of B Company, The Royal Scots, based near the Gulf War front line, receives an injection in Saudi Arabia against chemical attack

## Six Army officers are charged with rape

BY ADRIAN LEE AND MICHAEL EVANS

SIX young Army officers have been charged with raping a civilian student at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham in Wiltshire. The six officers, two of whom are captains, have been charged on an alleged incident on May 27.

An investigation by Ministry of Defence police into the allegations only began this month because the woman involved did not come forward until recently.

The court lists those charged as Captain Philip

arrested on December 3 at locations in the Home Counties, including an officers' mess, appeared at Wantage Magistrates' Court in Oxfordshire on December 4 and were remanded in custody until today.

A sixth officer was arrested on December 3 in North Yorkshire and was taken to Northallerton police station where he was released on conditional bail. He did not appear at Wantage and will be making his first appearance with the others there today.

The court lists those charged as Captain Philip

James Bates, 25, of Bordon, Hampshire; officer cadet Darren Bartlett, 23, of Arborfield, Reading; officer cadet Andrew John Stout, 20, of Lindale Avenue, Whickham, Newcastle; officer cadet Nicholas Oettinger, 20, of Preston, Lancashire; and Captain Matthew James Tupling, 23, of Bordon, Hampshire.

The officer arrested in Yorkshire is Lieutenant Jan Barlow, 28. All are members of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

The alleged victim complained to Thames Valley Police on November 11 but the

investigation was handed to police at the Ministry of Defence, who are responsible for inquiries relating to MoD or Crown property.

It has university status and awards science, technology, engineering and management degrees. About 1,000 students a year pass through the college, which occupies a parkland estate between Oxford and Swindon. Most army officers will spend at least some time at Shrivenham in south London. It moved to Shrivenham in 1946. The college provides degree courses in defence technology and management for military and civilian undergraduates and postgraduates. The college accepts non-commissioned officers as well as officers.

The incident allegedly took place in an accommodation block at the Shrivenham college which is near Swindon. The young woman is a student at another college. The Army's Royal Military College of Science dates from 1772 when it was at Woolwich in south London. It moved to Shrivenham in 1946. The college provides degree courses in defence technology and management for military and civilian undergraduates and postgraduates. The college accepts non-commissioned officers as well as officers.

### Willetts report to be issued today

The Commons Committee on Standards and Privileges said last night that it had agreed on a report over the David Willetts affair, but no details would be published until today. On Monday the committee broke up in disarray after failing to agree over the severity of punishment it would recommend for the Paymaster General.

### Mandela seals 'new freedom'

President Mandela of South Africa has signed into law the post-apartheid Constitution at a ceremony in Sharpeville that drew a symbolic line under the country's troubled past. Mr Mandela called on those watching the ceremony to join hands "for peace and prosperity". Page 12

## Major attempts to deflect the Euro-fire to Labour

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR asserted yesterday that Britain's negotiating position for the Dublin summit this weekend was being undermined because socialist governments in Europe were waiting for Tony Blair.

In a high-risk move to turn attention from the Tories' internal troubles, the Prime Minister launched a twin offensive — depicting Labour as the party that would cave in to Brussels, and the Tories as the defender of British interests.

At the same time ministers are making plain that they will reject key elements of an EU draft treaty to be discussed on Friday and Saturday.

Mr Major declared in the Commons that other European governments were expecting "a very easy ride" were there to be a Labour government and the surrender of

positions to which his Government was committed.

Admitting the national interest was being damaged by divisions in his party, he added: "What also damages the national interest is the belief among our partners that many of the positions that we hold would be surrendered by an alternative government."

His decision to try to turn the weekend's talks on Europe into an issue on which Labour will be followed by ministerial attacks which ask which party voters would rather have negotiating for Britain at the Amsterdam summit in June — after the general election.

Despite the Irish EU presidency's decision to skirt some of the more contentious issues in the draft treaty that it has

prepared for Dublin, Conservative sources say Mr Major will take a hard line on some areas. He will tell his partners that Britain under his Government would block:

■ Plans to abolish border controls by the next century  
■ Proposals to extend Europol, the police intelligence agency, into a European force  
■ Turning security policy into a matter for the EU rather than one for inter-government discussion

■ Any extension of qualified majority voting, thereby weakening the national veto

Strategists admit there is a risk in highlighting the prospect of a Labour government but believe votes can be won by pointing up that party's allegedly softer stance.

Leading article, page 17

## Fire in tunnel 'was probably arson'

BY BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND JONATHAN PRYNN

A DISTRESS flare thrown by a French protester during a wildcat strike probably started last month's Channel Tunnel fire, investigators into the cause of the blaze now believe.

Although the precise chain of events remains uncertain,

arson is rated the most plausible theory, according to sources close to the Eurotunnel investigating team. The investigation into the arson claims was reported first by *The Times* on November 21, two days after the fire.

The French prosecution authorities, who are carrying out separate inquiries, are also investigating arson after three weeks of tests on the burnt-out wagons. These are still in the possession of the Boulogne prosecutor handling the inquiry.

The arson theory is supported by preliminary investigations suggesting that the fire may have started underneath, rather than inside one of the loads. Security staff at the French entrance to the tunnel reported smouldering lorry on board the ill-fated freight train.

The train had been held up for two hours at Calais by a wildcat strike by Eurotunnel staff protesting against a programme of redundancies announced that day.

Le Shuttle services began again at 7am yesterday with long queues of cars building up at the Folkestone toll booths from 5am. A spokeswoman for the company said most of the services through the day were fully booked. The company is operating about a third of its normal capacity with three departures every two hours and a capacity of about 4,000 cars a day.

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Bracelet £2,675, Ring £555

## McDonald's big day ends with bunfight in Minsk

FROM RICHARD BEESTON  
IN MOSCOW

A HISTORIC moment in fast food history turned into a public relations fiasco yesterday when riot police in Belarus tried to break up a crowd of potential customers at the country's first McDonald's restaurant.

The event, billed as a landmark in hamburger history, was supposed to celebrate the expansion of the McDonald's empire to the 100th country in the

world. However, the American fast food chain had clearly not taken into account recent political tensions in Belarus, where demonstrators by young pro-democracy protesters against the rule of President Lukashenko have frequently turned into clashes with security forces.

Trouble started when a crowd of thousands assembled outside the restaurant on Minsk's Francis Skaryna Prospekt, the main thoroughfare frequently used by pro-democracy demon-

strators. Attracted by a midnight fast and fireworks display and rumours of free food, the crowd rushed to snap up the first Big Macs. Then, scores of Onion riot police, the main security force, tried to disperse them with truncheons.

Before the scuffles, McDonald's had touted the event as a watershed in its global expansion, and even hinted that the opening of its fast food outlets was a sign of stability in the world. "Country number 100 is a proud

moment for us — and a marker on a journey which is far from over," said James Cantalupo, the president of McDonald's International. "I am confident we will be celebrating country number 200 in the future."

Pavel Ryabov, McDonald's marketing manager in Russia, insisted the event "went smoothly". But some customers seemed far from satisfied with their first taste of the American dream. "Stuff the police with hamburgers!" shouted one young woman.

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'I told her just to take half — she said "we have done it before" and took a whole one'

## Leah Betts was warned not to take Ecstasy

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY

LEAH BETTS ignored a warning from her best friend before taking the Ecstasy tablet which killed her as she celebrated her 18th birthday.

Sarah Cargill, 18, told Norwich Crown Court yesterday that she had advised Miss Betts to take only half the tablet because she was concerned that it was stronger than the Ecstasy she had experimented with before. But she swallowed the whole pill and collapsed into a coma around three hours later.

Miss Betts, who died at her parents' home in Latchingdon, Essex, in November last year, obtained the drug through a network of friends. The court was told that one, Stephen Smith, 19, of Basildon, Essex, had admitted being involved in the supply of the drug which killed Leah. But Steven Packman, 18, of Laindon, Essex, denies being involved in its supply.

The tablet was allegedly obtained by Mr Packman, a college student, from an unknown source at Raquel's



Leah Betts went into coma after taking drug

nightclub in Basildon. The teenager, who bought four tablets for £40, had been asked by Mr Smith, his best friend, to purchase them after he in turn received a request from his girlfriend, Louise Yedey. It was Miss Yedey who had earlier been asked by Miss Cargill to obtain the drugs for the birthday party.

Miss Betts, who knew all of them from school and college days, told her father, Paul, before slipping into the coma that it was Smith who had supplied the drugs.

Mr Betts, a former policeman, listened briefly yesterday to the evidence given by Smith, who will be sentenced at the end of Mr Packman's trial.

Andrew Williams, prosecuting, told the court that Miss Betts had died from the idiosyncratic effect of taking Ecstasy. There was nothing chemically wrong with the tablet but "something peculiar" about Miss Betts and the consumption of the drug led to her death, the cause of which

had perhaps never been satisfactorily established. Mr Williams told the jury: "It's as well to remember the defendant is not charged with culpability regarding her death but with supplying drugs."

He said Miss Betts was a relative novice to the drugs. She had taken Ecstasy once or twice before and indeed smoked cannabis. You may conclude that Leah Betts, like so many young people, was enthusiastic about life and eager to explore what it had to offer. In the pursuit of excitement she fell tragic victim to the inherent perils of taking drugs," he told the jury.

He spoke of the arbitrary nature of the peril and said that Miss Cargill suffered no ill-effect from the single Ecstasy tablet she also took. "They both, Sarah and Leah, had been unable themselves to obtain these Ecstasy tablets. They wanted to take them but couldn't by their own devices buy them. They were obliged to obtain the tablets by the good offices of a friendship network," said Mr Williams.

The chain that led to the Ecstasy tablets, with apple motifs, being supplied was like any other around the country supplying drugs "day in, day out", Mr Williams said. Smith talked to Mr Packman at the club, it was alleged, about having agreed to obtain Ecstasy for the two girls and Mr Packman then said he would obtain some for him.

The four tablets were handed back down the chain from Mr Packman to a telephone packet to Smith, who put them

in a matchbox, to Louise Yedey, who handed them over to Sarah Cargill, who gave one to Leah and one to herself at the start of the party.

After Miss Betts's death, Miss Yedey and Miss Cargill both admitted to police their role and were cautioned. Meanwhile, a reporter on *The News of the World* approached Bernie King, the bouncer at the nightclub. A tape recording was made of a conversation between him and Mr Packman in which, the court was told, the defendant "freely and unguardedly" admitted buying the tablets at the club and giving them to Smith. He said that his defence when interviewed by police would be that he remembered nothing of what had happened because he was drunk.

Smith told the jury that he was arrested the day that Leah collapsed and interviewed about supplying the drugs. "I knew the drugs were for Sarah and Leah. That was the understanding. Louise handed over £40 and the order was for four tablets.

"I didn't like the idea of going up to people in the club so I decided that I would wait to see if I was approached. I wasn't approached. I was talking to Steven and he volunteered to go and run the errand."

"He was away for about ten minutes. He came back and said 'I've got the tablets.'

Under cross-examination, Smith denied that he had concocted the story implicating Mr Packman and given evidence against his best friend in order to secure a more lenient sentence for himself. He added: "I can't justify what I did — it was a spontaneous and foolish decision."

Miss Cargill told the jury that Miss Betts lived with her during the week while studying at Basildon College. Miss

Cargill said that both of them had begun to take drugs at the start of last year — cannabis, "whizz" (amphetamines), LSD on one occasion, and Ecstasy four times.

Miss Cargill said: "I gave the money to Louise on the Friday. I was told on Saturday,



Steven Packman and his mother arriving at Norwich Crown Court where he denies supplying the drug which led to Miss Betts's death at her birthday party

afternoon that I would receive back from the nightclub had an apple motif.

Because of that, Miss Cargill said she had advised Miss Betts only to take half a tablet. "At first I told her just to take half because Stephen had said to Louise over the phone that they were different ones, so I said to Leah only take half." Miss Cargill told the

court. "They were a little bit stronger." She added: "[Leah] said 'we have done it before' so she took a whole one."

Miss Cargill told the court that in the past she and Miss Betts had taken Ecstasy tablets which had a dove motif engraved on them. But the tablets Smith had brought

from the nightclub had an apple motif.

Because of that, Miss Cargill said she had advised Miss Betts only to take half a tablet. "At first I told her just to take half because Stephen had said to Louise over the phone that they were different ones, so I said to Leah only take half."

Miss Cargill told the court that she took did not affect her any differently to previous tablets.

She said she had seen Leah "drink a few drinks" and she was also smoking cannabis.

The trial continues today.

Drink rival told: you can't have a double

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A SUPERMARKET giant was facing legal action last night over claims that its own-brand spirits are too similar to drinks such as Southern Comfort and Jack Daniels.

Asda charges about 30 per cent less for drinks like Deep South and Daniel Boone bourbon. It says the products are "taste-alike, not look-alike" and that it will defend itself vigorously against a writ.

In a statement, International Distillers and Vintners UK Ltd said a writ had been issued because Asda's range bore a "very strong resemblance" to well-known brands and could confuse customers.

"These brand owners will take whatever action is necessary to protect the integrity of their brands, including trademarks, trade dress and packaging — in fact, all aspects which go to make up the brands' 'image,'" the statement said.

A writ was served jointly by two Grand Metropolitan companies — The Twelve Islands Shipping Company and GW Archer & Co — the Brown-Forman Corporation and Jack Daniels' Distilleries. The controversial brands also include Asda Peach Schnapps, which is allegedly competing against Archer's, and Asda Windward, a coconut-style spirit similar to Malibu.

Justin King, Asda brand director, said shoppers were enjoying savings of up to a third by taking advantage of the own-brands, which had been on sale for two months. Daniel Boone bourbon sells for £12.23, against £16.73 for brand leader Jack Daniels.

"The price alone means that no one can claim that our customers are confused by what they're buying," said Mr King. "Since the launch of Asda brand spirits in October, our overall sales of spirits have increased while sales of branded equivalents have remained constant. People who were buying the brands are still doing so. The bottom line is that Asda's honest pricing threatens the branded industry's steep profit margins."

"We will be defending the writ vigorously and robustly. Until now, ordinary people have been priced out of the spirits market."

## Schoolgirl has peace talks at No 10 and White House

BY ROBIN YOUNG

A POETIC plea for peace earned meetings with John Major and President Clinton for Sophia Clarke, 11, who has a rare genetic disorder. Her mother, Tina, sent the girl's poem, called *Poetry at Christmas*, to the television presenter Noel Edmonds. He sent it to the Prime Minister and the US President, who replied almost immediately.

On Christmas Day viewers will see Edmonds, host of BBC1's *Noel's Christmas Presents*, surprise Sophia by pretending to be a London tour guide before taking her to 10 Downing Street and to the White House in Washington.

The girl yesterday explained the inspiration for the poem: "I

was thinking about all the people who were dying in Rwanda. I wrote it and my mum put in all the full stops and capital letters. All my friends wanted to come with me to Washington."

Sophia, from Droitwich, Hereford, and Worcester, spent 30 minutes with President Clinton and his wife Hillary. The President said: "I was very flattered to be in the poem of a brave young girl from another country. It was very moving. I was delighted to meet her and welcome her to the White House."

Mrs Clinton said: "It was a pleasure for Sophia to be the first person to see our Christmas decorations. She is an inspiring child. I hope her determination for peace at Christmas is mirrored around the world."

The Prime Minister said he had enjoyed reading Sophia's poem: "I believe it is a very good Christmas message for world peace."

Edmonds said: "We were genuinely surprised to be granted this chance to go to the White House. It is very rare for them to do this. There is a wonderful moment when Sophia's dad, Peter, says something to Bill Clinton and he has this blank look: Peter has quite a strong accent."

Sophia has Niemann-Pick disease, which affects her coordination and balance.

PEACE AT CHRISTMAS by SOPHIA CLARKE

Here I am sad and alone  
Thinking of all the bad things done.  
The news is full of doom and gloom,  
I hope there will be joy everywhere soon.

People in the nations afar  
Will look upon the Christmas star  
To make their wish for peace on Earth  
And free them from the pain of war.

Will John Major and Bill Clinton help  
To make their wish come true?

Everyone would be happy,  
Especially me and you.

If all the world could be the same  
Far off lands would suffer no pain,  
Children everywhere would laugh and play.  
If only the world could be this way.



## Passenger 'aimed gun at guard'

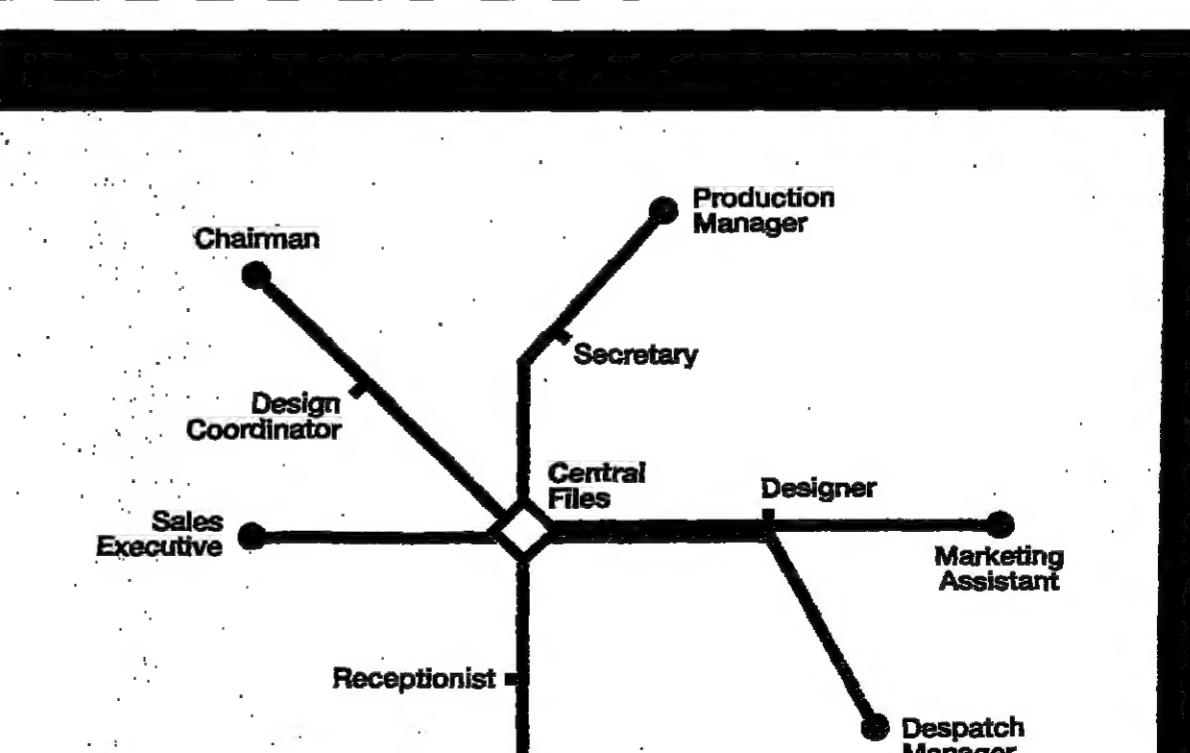
BY A STAFF REPORTER

A FORMER marketing executive produced a shotgun and pointed it at a railway guard after being ejected from a train at a remote Scottish station for refusing to stop smoking, a court was told yesterday.

Allan Symington, 36, the guard, told Stirling Sheriff Court that Alexander MacKinnon, 27, was "staggering drunk" when he joined the train from Glasgow to Fort William last October. On several occasions, he said, he and the senior train guard had to ask Mr MacKinnon to obey ScotRail's no-smoking rule. Mr MacKinnon refused and the senior guard asked him to leave the train at Crieff station.

Mr Symington said: "On the platform he bent down and opened up a case and started putting together a shotgun. He pointed it at me and asked if he could get back on the train. He seemed quite annoyed. He kicked the train and said ScotRail was rubbish."

The court was told that Mr MacKinnon, who had inherited the £40,000 Purdey shotgun from his grandfather, had moved from London to Edinburgh since the incident. Mr MacKinnon denies causing a breach of the peace, being drunk in charge of a gun and placing members of the public in fear and alarm. The trial was postponed until February.



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## Helicopter tracks hunt saboteurs

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

DEVOOTEES of fox hunting have deployed a new weapon in their long-running battle with hunt saboteurs, using a millionaire businessman's helicopter to track and film their tormentors from the air.

David Hart, a special adviser to Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, took to the skies last Saturday after allegations from the Suffolk Hunt that more than 20 saboteurs were attacking hounds with whips and clubs.

For more than an hour Mr Hart swooped and hovered over the saboteurs as they tried to disrupt the hunt on his 500-acre country estate at Chadrac Hall near Bury St Edmunds. A colleague used a long-focus lens to take photographs of

the events below. Mr Hart, himself a keen huntsman and a former joint-master of the Suffolk, normally uses his dark-green helicopter to ferry guests from London to his country home.

A leading saboteur, Norma Dinnie-Weall, claimed yesterday that Mr Hart had deliberately flown at some of the protesters, forcing them to seek refuge in nearby woods. She said: "It was scary for us because the helicopter hovered 20 feet over our heads. He may have wanted to frighten us but it was more frightening for the horses and wildlife in general."

Mr Hart dismissed suggestions that he had flown close to the protesters as nonsense. He said: "We were simply

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# 33%

# say they would

# definitely or

# probably consider

# voting for the

# Referendum Party.

In a Harris opinion poll taken across the nation on 7th December, 14% of voters said that if they are not offered a full referendum on Europe, they would definitely consider voting for the Referendum Party, and a further 19% said they would probably consider voting for the Referendum Party. The 33% are drawn from all three major political parties.

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# Row brews over who will pay for new Thames footbridge

BY MARCUS BINNEY

A NEW pedestrian bridge across the Thames in London will be "an elegant razor-sharp blade, a minimalist intervention", according to its designer, the architect Sir Norman Foster.

However, the bridge linking St Paul's Cathedral and the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside looks set to create a sizeable row between the Millennium Commission and the City Corporation over who should meet the lion's share of the £10 million cost. The commission is being asked to find 50 per cent, but the corporation's Bridge House Fund, set up in the 12th century when the old London Bridge was begun, is now worth £368 million and is still accumulating.

The bridge's backers say it will be London's elegant answer to the Pont des Arts in Paris, a pedestrian bridge linking the Louvre and the Left Bank. The sculptor Sir Anthony Caro, who is Sir Norman's partner in the project, said: "The design is an extension of sculpture. The 4m-wide structure will be, far longer than the Paris bridge; it crosses a 250m stretch of the

Thames and its central span will be a breathtaking 240m. "I can think of no pedestrian bridge with a longer central span," Chris Wise of Ove Arup and Partners, the engineers for the project, said.

The international competition to design the bridge attracted 226 entries. The Foster proposal, unlike most of the other finalists, centres on the axis of St Paul's steps and will briefly interrupt the view of the cathedral dome, which passing riverboats like to point out to their passengers.

Roger Ridsdale Smith, the project engineer who produced the original idea, said: "We wanted to design an absolutely flat structure. It's like taking a ribbon and pulling it tight as you can so people can walk on it."

The bridge deck will be of wooden planks, like a pier, allowing a glimpse of the water below. The balustrades, rising to elbow height, will be of stainless steel. Sir Norman said: "One reason why we rejected a covered bridge was that the glass would require constant cleaning. Walking out of doors is one of the pleasures of London and the bridge will offer spectacular new views along the Thames in both directions." No fewer than seven other bridges will be visible. To emphasise its minimal horizontal lines, the bridge will be without lamp posts or other vertical elements.

Some members and officials of the City Corporation are sceptical about the bridge. They believe that pedestrians are much more likely to use the new walkways proposed for Blackfriars railway bridge, where Railtrack plans to extend Blackfriars station so that it serves both sides of the river.

## Millennium company seeks to save project

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE organisers of the Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich mean the Millennium Commission today with pledges of only two-thirds of the private sponsorship that is required.

Millennium Central, the company behind the £700 million scheme, will seek to persuade the commission that if it provides £200 million of lottery cash, other big investors will come forward. However, even if the commission gives the go-ahead, questions would remain over an incoming Labour government's commitment to underwriting the project.

Millennium Central, which presents its plan to Michael

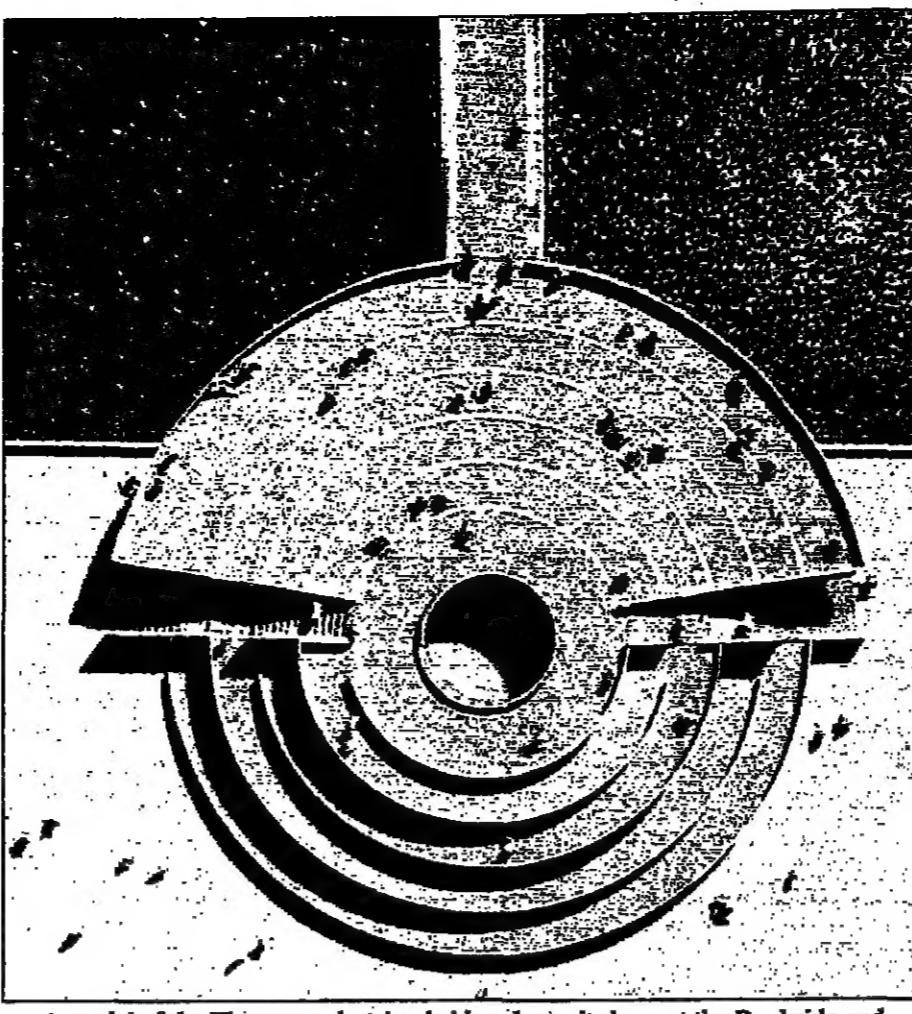
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TM1112



A model of the Thames pedestrian bridge shows its base at the Banksy end

## Ill Fiennes may have to abandon expedition

THE future of Sir Ranulph Fiennes's attempt to become the first man to walk alone and unaided across the Antarctic was uncertain last night after it emerged that he was suffering from kidney stones.

Twenty-six days into his journey, the adventurer was said to be in great pain and feeling nauseous, but was melting snow to provide drinking water to help the stones pass through his body. His sponsors, Dyson, said he had been forced to halt for a time and the next 48 hours would be critical.

Sir Ranulph, who is competing against other international expeditions, has suffered from the condition twice before. Doctors advised him by radio that there was no cause for immediate alarm and that he was taking the necessary medication. However, he may have to abandon his attempt unless his condition improves.

Sir Ranulph is attempting to raise £1 million for the breast cancer charity, Breakthrough.



### TEARS AND TANTRUMS

Why Cupid has a hard time in Hollywood, in the Magazine

### SECOND SKIN

How leather has shed its bad girl image, in Weekend

### PLUS

### THE TOP 100 EASY LISTENING TRACKS

### WEEKEND MONEY

AND 10:15, OUR MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG READERS

# Who knew Book Tokens

# One man and his dog fight to save nation's hedgerows

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE fate of 40,000 miles of English hedgerow is hanging on the outcome of a court action brought by a retired teacher who has successfully fought 80 environmental legal battles against some of the largest organisations in the country.

Colin Seymour hopes that his campaign to save 56 yards of hawthorn hedge bordering an old allotment site near to his home will set a precedent that lawmakers will be unable to ignore. The outcome will be watched with interest by the Department of Environment, which is framing hedgerow protection legislation for a new Environment Bill planned for next year.

Mr Seymour, 63, from Flamborough in east Yorkshire, is seeking a declaration in Hull County Court that an Act passed more than two centuries ago is still valid. If Judge Cracknell rules in his

favour, it will compel the local parish council to abandon plans to grub up the hedge to make way for a bowling green and, instead, maintain the hawthorn in perpetuity.

"This is not a battle between the parish council and a little old man with a small black dog and a carrier bag full of documents," Mr Seymour said yesterday. "There will be no winner or loser. This is about protecting our countryside and the wildlife which lives in it."

After a brief hearing yesterday, the judge acknowledging the considerable public interest in his decision, reserved his judgment and promised to make it known as soon as possible.

The Flamborough Enclosure Act of 1765 is one of thousands of similar Acts passed when peasants were forced off common land that was fenced off by landowners.



The Act compelled the owners to maintain the newly fenced-off land.

Outside the court yesterday Mr Seymour, who is supported by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, said: "What happens here will affect more than 40,000 miles of hedgerow across the country. There are 4,000 Acts like the one for Flamborough and this decision will affect each of them."

"I am taking this action because no one else, no countryside group, seems prepared to do so. If we do not act, this

traditional and familiar part of our countryside and all those flora and fauna which rely upon it, will disappear for ever."

Mr Seymour, a member of the Byways and Bridleways Trust, moved to Flamborough eight years ago and has become a familiar figure at public inquiries up and down the country. In his first case, against the National Coal Board in 1977, he successfully opposed plans for multi-million-pound, open-cast mines around his south Yorkshire home. In the past two decades he has forced councils to drain tunnels and rebuild bridges.

"I have won against British Coal, British Rail, British Waterways, every county council in Yorkshire and most local authorities," Mr Seymour said. "In only one case did I not get the order I was seeking and then I got two thirds of my costs." In case promised actions are not carried out,



Digging in: Colin Seymour, his dog Fred and the hedgerow at the centre of a county court action over its preservation

he tape-records proceedings. Peter Pearson, chairman of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, said: "This case is not about whether a bowling green should or should not be made, it is about whether the hedgerow is still protected by law. Even the loss of 56 yards of

hedgerow is a significant loss to wildlife which relies on it." Mr Seymour's stand has not been well received in Flamborough. The parish council originally intended to oppose his court action, but pulled out because of the cost. Gordon Scrowston, the clerk, said:

"We only wanted to build four bowling lines on four vacant allotments. It would have been an asset for the village, but to do so we had to take up a section of hedge. Then Mr Seymour came along and said the hedge must be maintained. He issued a summons

against us and we defended it up to a point. Unless he fails in this action, we can't have a bowling club."

A resident said: "This is a remote village and can be lonely at times. He is opposing a public amenity which would benefit us all."

## Countryside campaigners divided over wisdom of invoking enclosure laws

BY MICHAEL HORNBY  
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIONISTS are divided over the wisdom of invoking 200-year-old enclosure laws to protect hedgerows, one of the glories of the English countryside. While some believe the enclosure Acts could be used to save hedges from destruction, others say countryside lovers risk losing more than they gain by testing the

validity of those ancient laws.

Richard Mabey, author of *Flore Britannica*, said: "It is a dangerous mistake to assume the enclosure Acts were simply about planting hedges. They also obliterated public rights of way that had existed for centuries and wiped out huge tracts of common land."

Mr Mabey, a director of the pressure group Common Ground, said he feared unscrupulous landowners could cite the Acts to seek

closure of public footpaths which have been reinstated over the past hundred years and to resist the re-registration of common land.

Total hedgerow length has fallen from about 300,000 miles in 1945 to about 250,000 today as farmers have enlarged their fields to grow more crops and maximise efficient use of modern machinery.

Up until ten years ago, the Ministry of Agriculture was still offering farmers grants to encourage the

grubbing up of hedges in the name of agricultural "improvement". In a reversal of policy, farmers are now paid to replace hedges, although it is believed that many are still being lost every year.

Two months ago the Environment Department unveiled long-awaited measures to protect hedges of special historic and wildlife interest by requiring farmers to get the permission of local authorities before removing a hedge.

Failure to do so would entail fines of up to £5,000. It is intended the measures should become law during this Parliament.

Sian Phipps, of the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), said: "Even on the Government's own estimate, less than a fifth of all hedges would be protected under these proposals. That is not enough. Toughening the Government's own measures would be the best way of safe-

guarding hedges." For the time being hedges remain unprotected by any modern environmental legislation. Farmers and landowners are fighting a rearguard action against the proposed controls.

Many hedges date from Saxon times, when they were planted to mark parish boundaries. But most of those now in existence were created between 1750 and 1860, when landowners had thousands of private Bills passed by Parliament enclosing 6.5 million acres of what had previously been common land and open fields and pasture.

In its day, enclosure was, if anything, seen as an even greater act of countryside vandalism than the recent ripping out of hedges the enclosures created. The poet John Clare, who saw the destruction of the medieval landscape of Northamptonshire, likened enclosure to a Bonaparte laying waste to everything in his path.

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**THERE'S A GREAT DEAL GOING ON THIS CHRISTMAS**

## Students studied fraud on Internet

BY RICHARD FORD

TWO students at Portsmouth University used a guide and information freely available on the Internet to defraud companies out of computer software worth £8,500.

Ibrahim Baig and Pretesh Patel, both aged 21, obtained credit card numbers that were posted on the Internet by unscrupulous users. Southampton Crown Court was told. The students used the details to persuade companies to send them computer software over a three-month period.

Christopher Wing, for the prosecution, said the information on how to carry out the fraud was freely available on the Internet: "It gives precise details as to how credit card details can be obtained."

Mr Wing said Patel had accessed three Internet sites to get credit card information. The sites also provided tips on how to pose convincingly as the owner of a card.

The software was sent to two addresses provided by Patel and Baig. The addresses were empty houses so that delivery men would leave forwarding addresses from where the goods could be collected. Baig posed as a Mr Khan to collect the goods and Patel advertised the software in Loot, the London small-ads publication.

The pair were caught when one firm double-checked the credit details and called the police. The students were arrested when they tried to collect computers from a Group 4 security compound.

Both men admitted obtaining property by deception.

Patel, from Portsmouth, was ordered to repay £3,200, do 200 hours community service and pay £300 costs. Baig, from Southsea, must serve 80 hours of community service and pay £223 costs.



Kenyon: biggest project

## BBC goes in to bat for music of the century

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

RADIO 3 is undertaking a crusade to bring 20th-century music to the masses.

Starting in February, hundreds of hours of performances by the nation's leading orchestras and opera companies will be broadcast as part of the project "Sounding the Century". It will climax in Autumn 1999 with a festival including an opera commissioned from Nicholas Maw to re-open the refurbished Royal Opera House.

The three-year season, to be co-ordinated by the composer George Benjamin, will celebrate the diversity of 20th-century music, from Elgar and Mahler through Schoenberg and Stravinsky to contemporary composers such as Boulez. There will be lectures, documentaries and dramas. "This is Radio 3's most ambitious project to date," Nicholas Kenyon, the station's controller, said. The aim was to overcome the "fear of the unknown".

"It's about time we stopped thinking of modern music as a 'problem' and realised that our century has produced some of the most thrilling and moving music in Europe."

## Stores beat Christmas rush with all-night shopping

BY STAFF REPORTERS

CONSUMERS can shop around the clock at two supermarket chains this Christmas, and for the first time in a quarter of a century trains are to run on Christmas Day.

Safeway and Asda will keep open some stores for more than 24 hours to cope with the last-minute rush before the holiday shutdown on Christmas Eve. Tesco is also considering whether to open some of its stores for non-stop shopping. However, Sainsbury's, Somerfield and Waitrose have decided against 24-hour opening, contenting themselves with extended hours.

Safeway's all-day opening is being promoted as part of its

## Primary teachers 'best paid in world'

BY JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

BRITAIN'S move to an all-graduate teaching profession has made primary teachers among the best-paid in the world, according to a comparison of education in industrialised nations.

Annual statistics produced by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) show that in relation to average income, only teachers in Ireland, Portugal and Spain do better than British primary school staff with 15 years' experience. Those in Germany and Switzerland are on a par with the British figure of £20,145.

The study suggests that governments have had to choose between improving teachers' pay and reducing class sizes. British teachers won substantial pay increases in the 1980s but still have among the largest classes. Only The Netherlands, Ireland and Turkey exceeded Britain's average of 21.7 pupils per teacher.

The UK ranked eighth in spending on primary education, at \$3,295 (£1,997) per pupil, eleventh in secondary spending, at \$4,494 (£2,724) and eighth in further and higher education at \$8,241 (£4,995). A commentary on the statistics suggests that "falling pupil/teacher ratios may be traded against lower pay rises". Teaching unions said that the explanation lay in the single salary scale for primary and secondary teachers, and the move to an all-graduate profession.

The Department for Education said the report, *Education at a glance*, showed the proportion of young people in vocational education or training was among the highest in the 28-country study and graduation rates were the highest in Europe.

burgh, Patchway in Bristol, and Watford, Hertfordshire.

Gawick Way, a privatised rail company, is to operate a half-hourly service between London Victoria and Gatwick Airport from 7am to 7pm. Journeys will be free and are being sponsored by British Airways, Continental Airlines and the British Airports Authority. Passengers will be served free mince pies and coffee during the day and free gin and tonic in the evening.

Up to the late 1960s, British Rail ran a skeleton Christmas Day service but in 1970 introduced the familiar two-day total shutdown over Christmas Day and Boxing Day.



# Princess's model entrance marks Galliano's Dior debut

By GRACE BRADBERY  
STYLE EDITOR

AMONG the fashion elite who gathered at the Metropolitan Museum Costume Institute gala, the short-lived presence of Diana, Princess of Wales, inspired a mixture of envy and awe.

Her midnight-blue, silk slip-dress looked like a rather elegant negligee to the uninitiated. But to those in the know, it was the fashion coup of the year — the first House of Dior dress by John Galliano, the British designer who took over in October as head of Christian Dior, France's grandest fashion house.

It was difficult to know who had more to gain — John Galliano and Dior, who in one evening garnered more publicity than most designers achieve in a year, or the Princess, whose fashion profile received an enormous boost.

The evening, held to mark the 50th anniversary of Dior's New Look, was also a triumph for Liz Tilberis, the British editor of the magazine *Harper's Bazaar*, who was chairwoman of this year's ball. Photographed at the Princess's side, she also wore a blue Dior gown — but by Gianfranco Ferré, the designer who stepped down earlier this year.

Though Ms Tilberis and the Princess are friends, it was Bernard Arnault, head of Dior, who invited her to attend the gala and who suggested, when Galliano took over at Dior, that a special dress could be designed for her.

Galliano and his team travelled from Paris to London three times for fittings, making their last visit on November 28, the designer's 35th birthday. He arrived at Kensington Palace to find that the Princess had organised a cake and champagne.

Though the dress may look simple, its construction is elaborate, the delicate bodice trimmed with lace forming a perfectly fitted foundation. It will have taken hundreds of hours for the *petites mains*, or seamstresses, to complete. The



The Princess, with her friend Liz Tilberis, arrives in the slip-dress fitted by Galliano in London over three sessions

cost of an haute couture

Galliano dress is generally

between £10,000 and £15,000,

though given that the Princess

was invited to wear the dress

by M Arnault, it is unlikely

that she paid.

Yesterday, executives at

Dior and Galliano himself

were delighted by the impact

made by the Princess. "Every-

body at the party was concen-

trating on her, and she was so

beautiful — the smile, the

face," said M Danillion. "John

said that for him the silhouette

and the personality were a

symbol of lightness and

femininity."

The Princess's dress pro-

vides a preview of Galliano's

first collection for Dior, which

will be unveiled at the haute

couture show in Paris, in

January. Although revealing

by royal standards, it may

herald a more conservative

phase for the designer who, in

his previous job as designer in

chief at the House of

Givenchy, was renowned for

the Queen Mother.

his injunction to seamstresses

to make it "shorter, tighter".

Born in Gibraltar to a

Spanish mother and

Gibraltan father, Galliano

came to Britain at the age of

six and grew up in south

London where his father

worked as a plumber. He

graduated from St Martin's

School of Art in 1984 and, after

years of financial insecurity,

secured his Givenchy job last

year. He is best known for his

bias-cut slip dresses and the

historical research which goes

into many of his clothes.

Galliano's appearance can

be eccentric but on Monday

night he covered his often

dreadlocked hair with a piratical

scarf. The Princess had her

pew, slicker cut a zig-zag

parting, and a softer

colouring.

She finished off her outfit

with Dior's "Lady D" handbag

and a pearl choker, inset

with the sapphire and dia-

mond brooch given to her by

the Queen Mother.

**Supersonic exit leaves ballgoers in a spin**

FROM QUENTIN LETTS  
IN NEW YORK

BALLGOERS at New York's

"party of the year" were

disappointed when Diana,

Princess of Wales, failed

even to honour a packed

discotheque with a shake of

her designer-clad hips.

The Princess, wearied by a

long day, made an early

departure from the Costume

Institute ball. It appeared she

may have bitten off more

than she could chew when

she agreed to attend the

Manhattan social gala by

"overnighting" it from

London on Concorde.

Not even the lure of the

Maxi Priest reggae band, nor

the promise of cocktail party

chat with some of the richest

people in the world was

enough to keep the Princess

at the ball after 11pm (4am

GMT). Her premature get-

away crushed the dreams of

hundreds of New Yorkers

who had paid as much as

\$1,000 (£600) each in the hope

of catching more than a

glimpse of the Princess.

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## Royal seal of approval for spiritual cancer care



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THIRTEEN years ago the Prince of Wales opened the Bristol Cancer Help Centre, where the body, mind and spirit of patients with malignant disease can receive support. Any orthodox medical treatment that patients are receiving from the NHS is supplemented with complementary medicine at the centre. Last year, funds were no longer adequate to cope with the increasing patient demand and the centre's future seemed uncertain until the Prince again became actively involved, helping in the fundraising effort.

Yesterday the Prince visited to talk to patients, supporters and staff. He said that he had always believed orthodox and complementary medicine should be "synergistic" and that combining them would give patients the best of both worlds. He hoped that the centre would inspire similar integration in other fields of medicine. The centre, financially sound once more, is handling 1,000 patients a year and is planning to expand nationally.

Sheila Hancock, the actress, was once a patient at the centre and spoke of the impact that it had on her life. Nine years ago she was found to be suffering from breast cancer. The diagnosis left her quaking with fear and certain that her life was over. Miss Hancock was advised by a friend to go to the Bristol centre but did so with reluctance because she could not see how dairymaid-skirted and be-sandalled women, together with a diet of carrots, could help her.

She arrived in Bristol to

find that the centre was

staffed by workers of both

sexes who behaved in a

straightforward manner and

that the food, even if vegetar-

ian, was extremely good. Other patients provided the mutual support she craved in three to four carrots could boost the immune system's ability to destroy cancer cells.

Fortunately for the centre's staff, the readers had not seen the other recent report by Dr Christopher Redhead in the Journal *Feedback*, which described the new-found ability of scientists to engineer genetically carotenoid-rich foods such as tomatoes, red peppers and carrots so that they will contain three times the usual amount of these anti-oxidant vitamins.

The Bristol centre never

was just about carrot juice and was therefore particularly busy yesterday, not only coping with the Prince's visit but with calls

cinema in Leicester Square. The film is the first without any of the cast from the original 1960s TV series. The Prince met Patrick Stewart, the British actor who stars as captain of the *Enterprise*, and other cast members.

*First Contact* reached the top of the American film charts last month, taking £18.6 million at the box office in its first weekend.

Review, page 33

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# Doctors pay for failure to apply for lottery grants

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of thousands of pounds have been lost to medical research because charities failed to apply for grants from the National Lottery, it emerged yesterday.

Doctors and scientists had been deterred from applying by misleading reports that the National Lottery Charities Board was not interested in funding medical research,

members of the board said.

The board announced yesterday the first grants aimed at medical and social research charities. A total of 56 charities, from 243 that applied, received £3.6 million.

The Cancer Research Campaign, one of the most vociferous critics of the lottery's effect on charitable giving, received £477,000 to investigate cancer genes. The Children's Liver Disease Foundation received £189,000 for a project to develop an artificial liver machine similar to a kidney machine.

Tenovus, the Cardiff cancer charity whose income was cut by £1.5 million a year after the lottery forced it to abandon its scratchcard game, was awarded £242,000 for a breast cancer project.

Among the 204 medical charities that applied — a third of all those in Britain — there were 43 successful applicants, who shared £6.7 million. This is less than 5 per cent of the total of between £150 million and £160 million to be handed out in the current round for projects in health, disability and care fields.

The board is to give the bulk of the money to services for patients and clients. A series of announcements about the beneficiaries is to be made over the next six weeks.

David Sieff, chairman of the board, said 22 per cent of the medical and social research applications had been success-

ful, rising to 65 per cent among members of the Association of Medical Research Charities. Every project considered of sound design by the board's panel of scientific assessors received a grant.

"We can only fund those who put in bids to us. One of the misconceptions that has got around is that medical research charities cannot bid. A very important message to get across is that anyone can apply. All they have to do is look at the theme of the current programme and frame a project to fit within it," Mr Sieff said.

Professor Ingrid Allen, chairwoman of the medical research advisory panel, said: "We did not have all that many applicants [for medical research grants]. We recommended funding of all the good scientific applications."

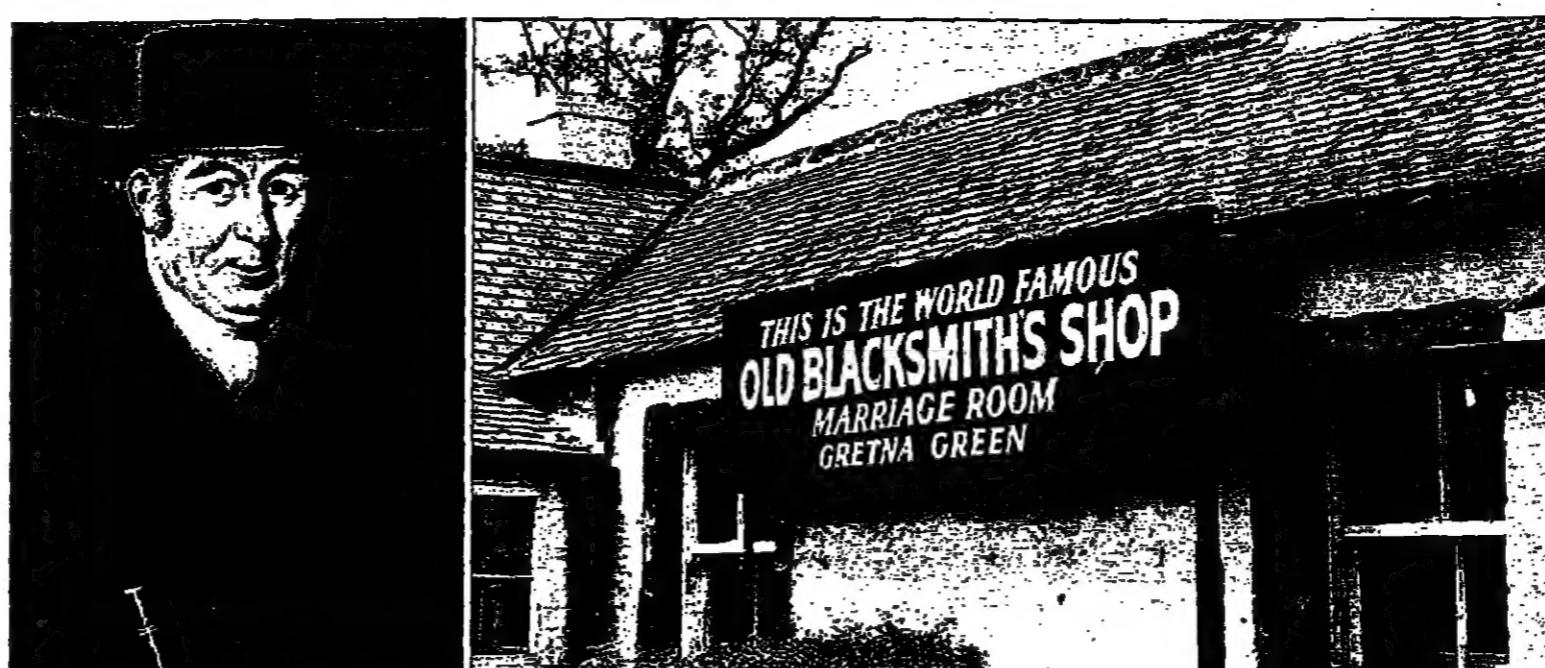
"It would have been nice if we could have recommended more. The reason why more did not apply needs investigation."

Professor Sir Eric Stroud, a member of the board, said doctors and scientists had been put off by early reports that lottery money was to be focused on social welfare and that medical research was to be ignored.

"I think it got into the subconscious of doctors and they felt we weren't interested so they didn't make inquiries. They had to apply through a charity but there were plenty of charities willing to make an application. It is sad."

□ The National Lottery announced its second marketing partnership — with Freemans home shopping. The catalogue company has teamed up with Camelot, the lottery operators, to send customers vouchers which are exchangeable for Lucky Dip tickets and an entry into the lottery draw.

## Marriage records of eloping couples are put up for auction



David Lang, who made a business from eloping couples, and a "marriage room" that is now part of Gretna Green's tourist trade

## From Gretna Green, a runaway best-seller

By ROBIN YOUNG

IT WAS the first stop on the path of true love or the last on the road to scandal. For over a century, runaway couples headed to Gretna Green for a marriage with no questions asked. And the man who cornered the high-class end of the market was David Lang.

The ledgers of his family business in elopement contain enough plots for a library of bodice-ripping romantic novels, ranging from the secret wedding of a former Lord Chancellor to the duplicitous abduction of a rich young heiress.

Today up to a hundred libraries, collectors and antique dealers are expected to join the bidding as the Lang family papers from 1794 to 1895 are auctioned in Newcastle upon Tyne. Andrew McCoull, a partner with auctioneers Anderson and Garland, said: "There has been fantastic interest."

The collection of four hard-bound ledgers, two softbound registers, 21 bundles of loose papers and six envelopes of record slips and certificates demonstrate the business that built up in the Dumfries

border town after English law required banns to be read three times before marriage. Gretna was the easiest destination to reach in Scotland, where ceremonies did not need parental consent, and couples simply declared their wish to be married in front of witnesses.

David Lang, a former pedlar, became a Gretna "priest", simply noting down the date and names. One of the most famous scandals contained in papers is the 1818 wedding of

the widower Lord Erskine, formerly Lord Chancellor, and his young housekeeper, Mary Buck, mother of his illegitimate child. His family tried to prevent their wedding and his sons were so opposed that they tried to have their father committed to an asylum. When he fled his Sussex home with his bride and headed for Scotland, he escaped pursuit by dressing as an old woman. He died five years later.

In 1826, another Gretna

The impressionable teenager fell in love with him on the way. After their wedding, the couple fled to France but her relatives caught them in Calais and persuaded the girl to leave her new husband.

Gibbon-Wakefield returned to England to face trial with his accomplice; his brother William, and both were jailed for three years. The question of the legality of the marriage was so involved that it was cancelled by special Act of Parliament.

Gibbon-Wakefield ultimately carved a successful career as financial adviser to colonial governments in Australia and New Zealand. David Lang was not so lucky. During the trial, he caught a cold and died, aged 71. His business was continued by his son Simon and grandson William.

Mr McCoull said: "After William died in 1896, the records passed to his son Simon, who ran a grocery in Gateshead. A solicitor who bought the records recognised their importance and spent years preparing indexes. This is first time such records have been auctioned on the open market."

### Airline tries haute cuisine

British Airways is moving away from the despised "plastic" airline meal. Cabin crews, who are receiving training from the chef Michel Roux, are cooking passengers' meals to order. The new meals, introduced yesterday in first class on BA's 72 long-haul routes, mean that passengers can have anything from stuffed aubergine to cappuccino mousse. If successful, the scheme will be extended.

### Police accused

Seven police officers were remanded on bail, accused of offences arising from clashes in east London with New Age travellers on their way to a music festival. They will appear at the Old Bailey next month.

### Kosher beer

A German brewer has launched Europe's first kosher beer. Herrenhauser Kosher Pilsner, brewed in Hanover using barley left untouched during Passover, is certified by the Federation of Synagogues in London.

### Player banned

The Liverpool winger Mark Kennedy was fined £600 and banned from driving for a year after a breath test showed he was nearly twice over the limit. He was recently fined £1,500 for carelessness and inconsiderate driving at Southport.

### Vienna arrests

Police in Vienna investigating the shooting of two Manchester United supporters arrested a third man and recovered a pistol after a house search. The 37-year-old was later released. Two other men are due in court today.

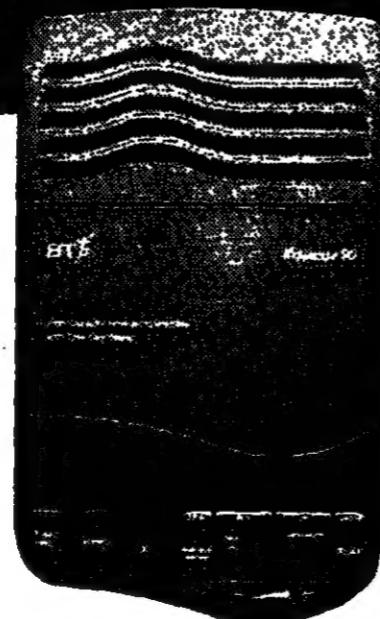
### Celery sent off

Football fans at Second Division Gillingham are being subjected to celery searches. Anyone caught in possession is threatened with a life ban because of a trend among fans to wave sticks of it while chanting an obscene anthem.

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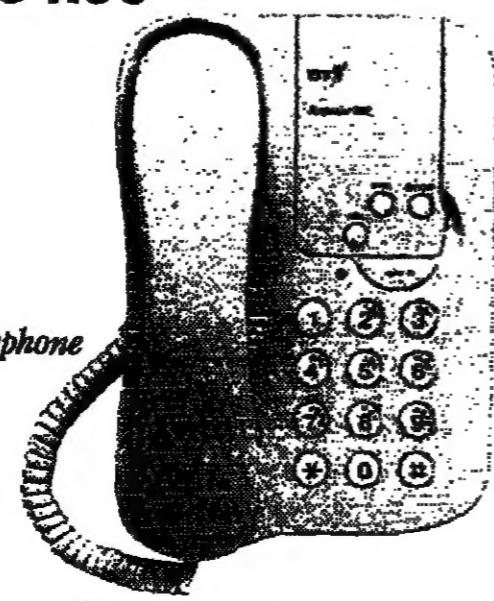


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**MPs deal of of Euro**

**We are not a isolation EU says Br**

**Taxpayer faces hi**

# MPs win a better deal on scrutiny of European laws

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

**BACKBENCH** MPs have been promised better information about European Union laws after the row over Commons' scrutiny of documents on the proposed single currency.

MPs from all parties reacted angrily last month to the Government's refusal to allow a full Commons debate on the Brussels documents, which related to preparations for monetary union. They protested at the lack of Commons scrutiny and the poor service given by some government departments had eroded Parliament's influence over European law-making.

New Whitehall guidelines will now make officials adopt a more positive attitude to such documents and pass them more swiftly to MPs. Senior civil servants will attend training courses on how best to keep MPs well informed.

Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, admitted that there was "a cause for concern" in the way that some Whitehall departments dealt with European legislation. He wrote to the European Legislation Select Committee, which led complaints about scrutiny failures, saying that the committee was "not unreasonable" in refusing to clear EU documents when it did not have the official text.

Although some departments were "alert and skilled"

in dealing with European documents, Mr Newton acknowledged that more work was needed "to ensure that this standard is more consistently achieved by all departments involved in EC business".

MPs praised the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for its work on Europe, but criticised the Foreign Office for failing to keep informed. The committee highlighted "administrative failure", protesting about ministerial letters to them being wrongly addressed, sent by second-class post and even going astray. It said that, although some departments handled EU papers competently, "this is a little like reassuring a motorist that his tyre is only flat at the bottom".

Mr Newton said that the Government took the failings very seriously and would order a review of training and guidance to departments to make sure that standards were "more consistently achieved". He conceded that more needed to be done and said that training seminars would be introduced to improve Whitehall procedures. The 23-strong European Secretariat of the Cabinet Office planned to start training civil servants early next year.

However, he rejected a recommendation by the committee to change the Commons

procedure which was at the centre of the dispute over three controversial EU documents on the single currency. Ministers suffered an embarrassing defeat on the issue after they tried to sideline debate on the proposals.

Another of the committee's complaints is that ministers have reached political agreement at meetings with their European counterparts despite there being a parliamentary "scrutiny reserve", preventing the Government making deals on Britain's behalf until MPs have given their plans clearance.

Mr Newton said that the device, which last week restricted Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, at a meeting of EU finance ministers, was sometimes "accidentally" lifted, but he added: "It is important for confidence in the system as a whole that even occasional failures are avoided."

## Peers call for royal yacht decision

By JAMES LANDALE

TORY peers attacked the Government last night over its failure to decide on a replacement for the Royal Yacht Britannia. More than ten peers, including several former naval officers, urged ministers to end the debate on the proposals.

The Government announced two years ago that the yacht would be decommissioned at the end of next year after concern about its rising running costs, now £10 million a year. As well as being the Royal Family's cruise ship, Britannia is used to promote British exports and many businessmen fear the loss of markets if no replacement is found. Contracts worth more than £2 billion have been signed on board in the past five years.

Various consortiums have put forward proposals for a replacement and in July the Defence Select Committee called for a new yacht to be built in a British shipyard by

2000. But ministers have yet to decide what kind of replacement they want and how it could be funded.

In a short debate yesterday, Lord Ashbourne, a former naval officer and chairman of the all-party Royal Yacht parliamentary group, asked: "Has not the

Government sat on the fence for long enough? The Royal Yacht was a symbol of British prestige and boosted exports. The Government should build a new yacht with a dual role of royal duties and export promotion, with the costs shared between Whitehall departments. Bucking-

ham Palace would pay for the Royal Family's use. Lord Motiliani, a retired naval captain, said a decision was needed urgently so that a new yacht could be ready for the 50th anniversary of the Queen's coronation in 2002. "Every day that is wasted makes it less likely for us to

achieve that." Other peers backing the call included Lord Anherst of Hackney, vice-commander of the Royal Yacht Squadron, Lord Balfour, a former merchant seaman, and Lord Strathearn and Mount Royal, vice-chairman of the all-party maritime group.

## We are not afraid of isolation in EU, says Brown

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN insisted yesterday that a Labour government would not allow a weakening of the British veto in crucial areas of European Union policy.

The Shadow Chancellor said that his party would retain the veto on immigration and asylum, foreign affairs, border controls and taxation, even if it meant Britain being isolated.

Mr Brown, seeking to minimise differences with the Tories on European policy, also repeated Kenneth Clarke's assertion on Monday that countries would not be able to decide whether to join a single currency until 1998, at the earliest.

John Major has tried to highlight policy differences between the two parties by claiming that Labour would give up the veto. But in an interview with BBC Radio 4's *Today*, Mr Brown said: "I think it has got to be made absolutely clear that this is a myth created by the Conservatives because they want to believe that other parties have problems when it is them who have the problems."

He added: "If we have to stand up to our partners and say they are wrong, we will. Even if we are in a minority of one we will say that."

But Robin Cook, Shadow Foreign Secretary, later admitted that a Labour government would extend qualified majority voting in some areas. He reaffirmed that Labour would be prepared to see a weakening of the veto on social, regional, environmental and industrial policy.

Mr Cook argued that if the European Union were enlarged to become a Europe of 25 or 26 nation states, they could not all be admitted

clutching their own vetoes. "If you want reform, you do have to have majority voting to stop one, perhaps small, nation obstructing progress," he said.

"We want to see reform in the structural funds, and across areas of agriculture policy, and that will mean there will have to be some majority votes against those individual nations that stand in the way."

Labour sources denied Tory assertions that Labour wanted to give up all Britain's opt-outs while admitting that the party was against exclusions in principle. Sources claimed that in 1995 Labour's policy document arguing against opt-outs referred to the social chapter opt-out, rather than issues such as monetary union or border controls. Labour was in favour of a single currency in principle but "we reserve the right to join when it is in our economic interest".

But Labour sources say the party may allow policy on border controls to be brought within the European Union, as long as Britain was not required to participate. Under the draft treaty to be discussed at Dublin, all border controls would be abolished in the EU by the end of the century.

The key areas where the two parties differ are over the powers of the European Parliament and the employment chapter. Labour supports an extension of the powers of the European Parliament so that it would be able to amend legislation agreed by the Council of Ministers through qualified majority voting.

Labour supports the employment chapter, which would set the achievement of high employment as a complementary objective to monetary union. The Government is strongly opposed to the plan.

## Taxpayer faces bigger bill for fewer quangos

BRITAIN has fewer quangos than ever but the cost to the taxpayer has never been higher (Valerie Elliott writes).

The Government is funding 1,194 quangos with £18.2 billion this year compared with £3 billion in 1979. This is the total amount spent on running costs, including salaries, expenses and awards.

But in the past year 96 bodies were wound up including the Nutrition Task Force, the National Breastfeeding Working Group, the Agricultural Wages Committee, the National Youth Agency and the Citizens' Charter Complaints Task Force.

Ministers have been told they must not create a quango unless they can prove that it offers the best value for money. Yet 63 such bodies were set up last year including a Salmon Taskforce set up by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, to examine how salmon stocks can be managed into the next century.

Last year ministers made 40,000 appointments to quangos of which 60 per cent were paid posts and 40 per cent unpaid. Quangos employ more than 100,000 staff.

Public Bodies 1996 (Special Educational Needs) Bill committee debate on the effect on the UK of the EU's planned EU rules harmonising VAT and excise rates again.

### IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons from 9.30am, backbench debates from 10.30am on pension and employment, 2.30pm on European Union questions; debate on first day, backbench debate on medicinal drugs. In the Lords debate on Education (Special Educational Needs) Bill committee debate on the effect on the UK of the EU's planned EU rules harmonising VAT and excise rates again.



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FROM QUENTIN LETTS  
IN NEW YORK

A FORMER mistress of the late John Kennedy has disclosed that she became pregnant by him in 1963 and, with his agreement, had an abortion.

Judith Exner was then a good-time girl in her mid-20s who had been introduced to the Kennedy "Camelot" by Frank Sinatra. Kennedy used her to convey messages to the Chicago mobster, Sam Giancana. Her affair with the President, which she first discussed openly in the 1970s, lasted for two years. It ended not long after she tearfully telephoned Kennedy at the White House to tell him that she was pregnant. "I said 'Jack, just about the worst thing I can tell you has happened, I'm pregnant,'" she said. "There was this quiet sound, almost a thud."

Mrs Exner, a Roman Catholic like Kennedy, has gone public about the abortion as she struggles with terminal cancer. She told her secret to Liz Smith, the New York gossip writer, whose account of the aborted pregnancy will appear in the next issue of *Vanity Fair* magazine.

"I sat on this secret because I guess I was too ashamed," said Mrs Exner, who at the time of the affair went under her maiden name Judith Campbell. "I never, never intended to tell this story... it was too sordid for a nice Catholic girl like me. But now, before I die, I think the



Judith Exner, the President's mistress, top right, her lover John Kennedy, and Sam Giancana, who helped to find doctor



Judith Exner, the President's mistress, top right, her lover John Kennedy, and Sam Giancana, who helped to find doctor

Camelot should be demystified and the Kennedy legend examined for its reality."

She discovered she was pregnant after she and Kennedy went to bed at the White House in December 1962 — the last time they made love. She said she did not sleep with any other man at that time. When she discovered her

pregnancy late the following month she was "stunned", because she had thought she was not able to carry children. Abortion was not then legal in the United States.

The affair has been well chronicled. Many biographers have examined the relationship, and have dwelt on details such as the time Kennedy,

shortly before he became President, suggested a ménage à trois to his flame. She turned him down.

Mrs Exner told Ms Smith that when she telephoned Kennedy to break the news "his first remark was — and he knew instantly he said the wrong thing — 'What are you going to do?' Then he correct-

ed himself and said, 'I'm sorry. What are we going to do?'" He was "very sweet" to her.

She said that he offered to let her keep the baby but that it had not been possible to do so, not least because she felt she was being watched constantly by the FBI. She had the abortion at Chicago's Grant

## Ghanaian lobbies UN for top job

FROM JAMES BONE  
IN NEW YORK



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## Corruption claims tarnish film awards

FROM GILES WHITTELL  
IN LOS ANGELES

THE organisation behind Hollywood's second most important awards ceremony has been denounced in *The Washington Post* as a "corrupt little band" whose prizes are all but for sale.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which presents the Golden Globes each January in a ceremony widely seen as a dry run for the Oscars, consists mainly of part-timers in thrall to celebrities and the studios' largesse, according to the *Post*.

Feted by such stars and directors as

Sharon Stone and Rob Reiner, the 88-member association enjoys international television coverage and the power to make and break careers on Golden Globe night. A few members are respected writers on film. Most are not.

Mahfouz Doss, a member who says he writes "about two dozen articles a year" for various Egyptian publications, worked as an engineer until 1978 and has been living off investments since. Tony Pomer runs a marketing company by day but is linked to Czech and Costa Rican publications. Munawar Hosain is a genial Bangladeshi correspondent who earned his living until recently selling

electronic appliances. Members must produce four published articles on film-related topics a year, but applicants from mainstream newspapers are routinely rebuffed. A *Le Monde* correspondent said she has been rejected "four or five times".

Those who are accepted attend screenings, receive gifts and are often flown to lavish junkets at the studios' expense as films are released.

Last year Sharon Stone sent each member a handwritten "thank you" letter after a press conference for her film *Casino*. She was later the surprise winner of a Best Actress Golden Globe.



Sharon Stone and Golden Globe award in January

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# Calais

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Hospital, after Kennedy's suggestion that Giancana might be able to find her a doctor. She showed Ms Smith the hospital bills for her two-day treatment, which she has kept. "I remember the doctors," she said. "They treated me as if I didn't exist. I was a body... I used to wonder if the doctor's hands were shaking when he thought of the consequences if things didn't go right."

John Davis, a cousin of Jacqueline Kennedy and author of books about the Kennedys, said yesterday: "This news of an abortion is not surprising, given the considerable amount of time Judith Campbell spent with JFK."

Mr Davis added that Mrs Exner's disclosures may damage the Kennedy myth in some quarters of American life. "John Kennedy's name has taken fair battering in the past few years, so it might not affect his reputation everywhere, but there will certainly be dismay in Catholic circles and in the Irish-American constituency."

After the affair, the White House closed ranks against the woman who had for two years been able to win Kennedy's time and affections. Kennedy turned instead to the actress Marilyn Monroe, another affair which the American press overlooked. Dave Powers, a Kennedy aide, when asked later about the woman who had, albeit briefly, carried the President's child, replied that he had never heard of any Campbell — "except the soup".

## Atheist linked to missing money

FROM BRONWEN MADDOW  
IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA'S most famous atheist, who disappeared over a year ago, vanished at about the same time as \$625,000 (£380,000) disappeared from two organisations she controlled, it has emerged.

Madalyn Murray O'Hair, whose federal case in 1993 resulted in the removal of prayer and Bible reading from American state schools and made her a household name across the United States, disappeared in August last year from Austin, Texas. Her younger son Jon and her granddaughter Robin, whom she had adopted as her daughter, disappeared at the same time.

Tax statements from two of the five organisations she ran with the assistance of her son Jon to promote atheism and the separation of Church and State, show that assets have gone missing.

The filings from American Atheists Inc and United Secularists of America contradict statements made by atheist officials in the past year that all corporate assets were intact after the Murray O'Hair disappearance.

The tax returns also disclose a pattern of financial transactions in New Zealand dollars and securities leading to speculation that the missing people have gone to New Zealand.

However, American colleagues have not lost faith in their former heroine. Ellen Johnson, the head of American Atheists Inc, has dismissed suggestions that the trio absconded illegally with the money, saying that she believes they are the victims of foul play.

This idea that Madalyn is perhaps sitting on a beach somewhere drinking a Mai Tai is so stupid as to be insulting," she has been reported as saying. "These are the most decent, honest people I have ever known in my life," she has added. "It is all extremely sad."

In September, Bill Murray, Ms Murray O'Hair's estranged older son, together with Robin's father, who is the publisher of a conservative Christian newsletter, filed a "missing persons report", but Austin detectives say that they have made no progress in the case.

Nato C  
starts f  
East E

# Nato countdown starts for entry of East Europeans

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

THE Nato alliance yesterday started the countdown to the entry of former Soviet bloc states, promising Moscow it would not deploy nuclear forces in them but also making clear that Russian objections would not halt the expansion.

Against the background of a sharp US-French dispute over a revamped Nato command, alliance foreign ministers fixed next July 8 for a Madrid summit that will invite the first Central European states to join, with entry planned for 1999. The first former Warsaw Pact members to be admitted are expected to be Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, with Romania and Slovakia as possible candidates from the other eight that have applied.

The decision, which in effect marks a point of no return in the transformation of the old Cold War alliance, was accompanied by new overtures to Russia to drop its fierce resistance to Nato's move eastwards.

These included a pledge not to station nuclear forces in the new member states — a largely symbolic gesture since Nato's nuclear umbrella is provided by seaborne weapons.

Nato also wants to involve Russia more closely in Euro-

pean security and is prepared to give it veto-power over some joint operations, such as peacekeeping. Russia's successful participation in the Bosnian peace force, re-launched this week as Stabilization Force — is hailed by Nato as the model for a future East-West military partnership.

The Americans, also worried about the future of those Eastern European states that will not be given membership tickets, want to create a North Atlantic Co-operation Council as a bridge to non-members.

While Warsaw, Budapest and Prague cheered yesterday's move, the Kremlin reiterated its hostility. Yevgeni Primakov, its Foreign Minister, met Warren Christopher, the retiring US Secretary of State, and other ministers from the 16-member alliance.

"Russia's position on this issue remains firm and rather rough," said Sergei Yashinetsky, spokesman for President Yeltsin. It was fantasy to suggest Russia was resigned to Nato expansion.

Senior British officials said the Russians were acquiescing but were eager not to give any public acceptance that Nato's enlargement was inevitable.

Russian diplomats, who fear the Clinton Administra-

## Van Gogh dilemma for Paris

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARIS

THE French Government was under intense pressure last night to buy an oil painting attributed to Vincent van Gogh, despite doubts about its authenticity.

The state has already paid F145 million (£16.5 million) to keep *Jardin d'Avvers* in the country after a series of costly and humiliating lawsuits. The painting, once valued at £33

million and considered by many to be the last work painted by Van Gogh before he killed himself in 1890, was classified as a national treasure in 1989 and its owner was banned from selling it outside France. *Jardin d'Avvers* was sold in Paris three years later for F55 million, less than a sixth of its estimated sale price in London or New York.

The seller, Jacques Walter, subsequently sued the state, claiming he had been de-

prived of realising the painting's full value on the international market, and earlier this year he was awarded F145 million compensation.

As the painting went under the hammer again in Paris last night, experts estimated that with the export ban still in place it would fetch about F50 million. There have been claims that the painting may not be by Van Gogh but by one of his friends, Claude-Emile Shuffenecker.



Protesters in Belgrade make the traditional three-finger Serb Orthodox gesture in demonstrations against the Milosevic administration

## Alliance attacks Milosevic over annulled election

BY CHARLES BRENNER  
AND STACY SULLIVAN  
IN BELGRADE

THE Nato alliance yesterday condemned President Milosevic of Serbia for annulling the result of local elections which favoured the opposition and called on him to reverse the decision.

"We are dismayed that the Serbian authorities have ignored the calls of the international community to respect internationally recognised dem-

ocratic principles," Nato foreign ministers said. "We urge the Serbian Government to respect the democratic wishes of the people and reverse this decision."

The statement was reinforced by tough language from Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, who said: "The people of Serbia deserve what their neighbours in central Europe have: clean elections, a free press, a normal market economy." If President Milosevic "seeks to rule Serbia as an unreformed dictatorship,

it will only increase his isolation and the suffering of his people."

Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, added France's voice to the chorus, saying the alliance must make plain to Serbian leaders that they were breaching human rights by stifling opposition.

In Belgrade, however, the Yugoslav Federal Court announced that it would not reinstate the opposition victory in last month's elections. The ruling, which followed three weeks of

protests in Belgrade, was a blow to hopes of overturning the election outcome by strictly legal means.

However, leaders from Zajedno, the opposition coalition, vowed to keep up the pressure and organised a boycott of yesterday's parliamentary session, the first since last month's contested election.

While the Belgrade protests show no signs of letting up, their unprecedented momentum has not grown into a national movement. Demonstrators consist mainly of students and urban sympathisers of Zajedno.

## Belgian held in lost girl case

BY CHARLES BRENNER

POLICE investigating the paedophile murders of Belgian children yesterday arrested a Brussels man on charges of involvement in the disappearance of a nine-year-old girl in 1992.

Jacques Génévois was taken

Brussels district of Ixelles. Her disappearance has been widely linked to the activities of Marc Dutroux, the confessed paedophile kidnapper.

Mr Génévois was held soon after the disappearance but was released on providing an alibi, despite the discovery of blood and hair in his car.

Investigators are now seeking to match samples taken at the time with blood from the Benissa family. Belgian media have reported that wit-

nesses identified Mr Génévois as an habitué of the same haunts as Jean-Marc Nihoul, a Brussels businessman who has been charged with complicity in the Dutroux case.

Four girls' bodies were found last summer buried under houses owned by Mr Dutroux, but police have yet to find any trace of Loubna.

Her disappearance is one of several, still unexplained, with which Mr Dutroux is suspected to have been connected.

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## Iraqis celebrate end of embargo as Saddam opens oil lifeline to West



Saddam yesterday

FROM MICHAEL THEODOROU IN NICOSIA

A TRIUMPHANT President Saddam Hussein yesterday pressed a button that started Iraqi oil flowing to world markets for the first time since his forces invaded Kuwait six years ago. As his down-trodden people celebrated, the state-run media presented the event as a personal victory for the Iraqi leader and heralded it as the beginning of the end of the overall embargo.

The deal, first signed last May, enables Iraq to sell \$2 billion (£1.22 billion) oil over six months to buy food and medicine under the strict

supervision of United Nations monitors deployed to ensure the proceeds are shared evenly among Iraq's 20 million people.

Iraqi officials have made it clear that Saddam, buoyed by the deal and his intervention in the Kurdish "safe area" last August which resulted in the collapse of a CIA-backed operation to topple him, will now try to woo Washington. If that strategy fails and he loses all hope of ending the wider sanctions, the unpredictable leader could lash out again, Barzan al-Takriti, his half-brother, has said.

President Saddam Hussein does not walk down the same road twice, so if things get stuck no one

will be able to guess where he will come from and where the next strike will be," Mr al-Takriti told the London-based *al Hawat* newspaper in a recent interview.

Privately, Iraqi officials say any hopes that Baghdad's charm offensive would work were dashed by President Clinton's decision to name Madeleine Albright, his hawkish UN Ambassador, as Secretary of State. She has made it clear she views Saddam as a dictator who must not be appeased.

Saddam's previously unannounced decision personally to start Iraqi oil flowing again from the northern oil city of Kirkuk through a pipeline to Turkey's

Mediterranean coast was trumpeted in an urgent telegram by the Iraqi News Agency. "President Saddam Hussein pressed the button in Kirkuk's Number One pumping station at 11.25 Baghdad time (08.25 GMT), declaring the return of Iraqi oil to the international oil market."

Soon afterwards, Turkey's state-owned refinery, Tupsas, said it had signed a contract with Iraq to buy 75,000 barrels a day of the new exports. Iraqi officials said that oil from Iraq's southern terminal of Minya al-Bakr, on the Gulf, would start to flow on Friday or Saturday.

Unicef estimated in October that 4,500 children under the age of five

were dying each month from hunger and disease. When the deal was given the final go-ahead on Monday, the UN Security Council's president, Francesco Paolo Fulci of Italy, called it "the largest humanitarian operation ever launched by the United Nations". He added: "More than 20 million innocent Iraqi civilians will be finally saved from starvation and untold suffering."

It could be several weeks before the oil money arrives, but Iraqis have already been feeling the benefits of lower food prices and a stronger currency, which followed confirmation of the deal.

While Iraqis welcomed the UN

Howard  
Britain  
police in

## Mandela puts seal on new freedom at Sharpeville

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN SHARPEVILLE

PRESIDENT MANDELA of South Africa yesterday signed into law the post-apartheid Constitution at a moving ceremony in Sharpeville that drew a symbolic line under the country's troubled past.

Standing in the township's football stadium, Mr Mandela called on the crowd and millions watching the ceremony on television to join hands "for peace and prosperity" and out of respect for those who died to bring about the freedoms enshrined in the new Constitution. He said to cheers: "Today we humbly pay tribute to them in a special way. This is a monument to their heroism."

It was a ceremony rich with symbolism, from the army helicopters bearing the new South African flag to the location itself. On a dusty street near the stadium in 1960, police shot dead 69 people during a peaceful protest that engraved Sharpeville on the international conscience. In nearby Vereeniging, south of Johannesburg, a treaty signed between the Boers and the British in 1902 disenfranchised the blacks.

Flanked by representatives from the former ruling National Party and other political parties, Cyril Ramaphosa, the chief constitutional negotiator, said Vereeniging and Sharpeville were "powerful symbols"

of oppression. He hailed the new Constitution as a "break with the past". Referring to the arrival of the first European settlers in the 17th century, he added: "It is the end of 344 years of struggle for national unity and lasting peace."

The signing of the Constitution formally completed a process begun during talks to end apartheid. The document was written over two years in the Constitutional Assembly, comprising both Houses of Parliament, and was certified by the Constitutional Court last week. Its Bill of Rights and provisions for a host of human rights bodies guarantees to protect the population from abuses.

More than two million South Africans made submissions to the Constitutional Court accepted the final draft last week after forcing negotiators in September to look again at certain sections. It had rejected the proposed blueprint for permanent democracy because it found fault with the reduction of provincial powers, the failure to entrench fundamental rights and lack of protection for human rights watchdogs. The amendments made by negotiators and accepted by the court provide the provinces with a greater say in making legislation and further guarantees for the independence of watchdogs.

### Tutu frees policeman

Cape Town: One of apartheid's most notorious killer policemen was pardoned yesterday in a decision likely to test the limits of national reconciliation. Brian Mitchell, serving 30 years for murdering 11 people in 1988, was freed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. (Reuters)



President Mandela and Cyril Ramaphosa at the ceremony in Sharpeville yesterday

## Fourteen arrested after Paris blast

Paris: French police arrested 14 people in raids on suspected Muslim fundamentalist enclaves around Paris yesterday, a week after a bomb on a commuter train killed four passengers and injured dozens of others (Ben Macintyre writes). The sweep, ordered by magistrates investigating last week's explosion, was carried out in immigrant areas of central Paris and the suburbs.

The train bombing on December 3 bore all the hallmarks of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the group held responsible for last year's wave of attacks and the most violent of the extremist organisations. The group is seeking to overthrow the French-backed Algerian Government. Roland Jacquard, head of France's international terrorism group, said the police operation was aimed at tracking down Ali Touchent, alias "Tariq", who is believed to have co-ordinated last year's bombing campaign.

### Civil servants to strike

Madrid: Spanish civil servants go on a one-day strike today in protest against the Government's decision to freeze public-sector wages (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Although the strike call has so far evoked little sympathy, with civil servants commonly viewed as overpaid, the action is the first big union challenge for José María Aznar, the Prime Minister, since he took office in May. The decision to freeze the wages was taken as part of the Government's effort to cut public spending and the budget deficit to ensure Spain's entry to the first tier of economic and monetary union.

### Record toll of air deaths

Washington: With three weeks to go to the end of the year, more passengers have died in air crashes around the world than in any previous year (Bronwen Maddox writes). Record numbers of flights have pushed up the total although air travel is on average becoming safer. The new figures, from Airclaims of London, show that 1,137 passengers have been killed on commercial flights this year. That excludes deaths from terrorism and on aircraft in the former Soviet Union.

### Rawlings claims win

Accra: President Rawlings, who has ruled Ghana for 15 years, has claimed a personal re-election victory in the country's polls and promised to work with the formidable Opposition, which has gained seats in parliament at the Government's expense. The President has 55 per cent of the 80 per cent of votes already counted. John Kufuor, his main opponent, has so far taken 42 per cent. (AP)

### Pope will not say Mass

Rome: The Pope, apparently heeding medical advice, will not celebrate Christmas Mass in St Peter's this year, the Vatican said. The fact that he will miss one of the key celebrations of the Christian year underscores the fact that old age is taking its toll. He will, however, deliver his usual "Urbi et Orbi" blessing on Christmas Day. (Reuters)

### Du Pont to stand trial

New York: A court said John du Pont, the eccentric multimillionaire, right, who claims to be the Dalai Lama and the last descendant of the Russian imperial family, is sane enough to stand trial on a charge of killing his wrestling coach. Mr du Pont, 58, said he was mentally unstable after a siege at his Philadelphia house in January. The stand-off came after the death of Dave Schultz, an Olympic wrestler who lived on his estate.



### Lorry crash kills 70

Sigiriya: A lorry carrying boulders ran off the road and overturned in a pond, killing at least 70 Hindu pilgrims who were riding on top in their village, 22 miles from Patna, in Bihar state. Many of the dead were women and children. The boulders fell onto the passengers, who had been celebrating the lorry's purchase by going on a pilgrimage. (Reuters)

### Bethlehem 'is broke'

Bethlehem: The biblical birthplace of Jesus is broke and may not be able to celebrate Christmas properly, the Mayor, Elias Freij, said. Yassir Arafat gave \$40,000 (£24,400) for the celebrations, which need \$70,000, the Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre, a Palestinian body, said. (AP)

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### FBI reward for bomber

New York: The FBI has offered a \$500,000 (£300,000) reward for information leading to the person who planted the bomb that went off during the Atlanta Olympics (Quentin Letts writes). It has also released a tape-recording of a man telephoning a warning.

The bomb exploded in Atlanta's Centennial Park on July 27, killing two people and injuring many more. The FBI also urged Olympics spectators to check their videotapes in case they had pictures of the bomber.

NBC has agreed an undisclosed settlement with Richard Jewell, once the FBI's chief suspect, who threatened to sue over the network's television coverage.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11 1996

OVERSEAS NEWS 13

## Howard distances Britain from EU police integration

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

BRITAIN distanced itself yesterday from the newly launched scheme of Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac for fast-track European integration in police matters. Announcing the British ratification of the Europol convention, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, made plain that he would resist any attempt to turn the Hague-based unit into a kind of European FBI.

Europol, he said in Bonn after talks with Manfred Kanther, the Interior Minister, would "collect and analyse information from member states and use the information to help the law enforcement agency of those states". By contrast, Herr Kohl, the German Chancellor, said at the Franco-German summit on Monday that he wanted to move quickly towards establishing Europol as "an effective police authority with operational powers". Mr Howard, without directly challenging Herr Kohl, set out Britain's view of Europol limits: "There should be no power to investigate or arrest people in other member states."

The French and German leaders indicated that they want to extend the principle of

"flexibility" — allowing fast integrators to steam ahead without those unwilling or unable to keep up — from foreign policy to home and police affairs. Mr Howard, cautiously but firmly, rejected that idea and concentrated on the need for common policing policies rather than for European federal institutions. In particular, Mr Howard said that he wanted to abolish three European steering groups on immigration, policing and judicial affairs which he regarded as nothing more than "an added layer of bureaucracy in Brussels". Co-operation on issues from immigration and asylum to criminal sentencing should be carried out at an inter-governmental level rather than through Brussels or as part of an integrated European polity.

The contrast with the French and German leaders could not have been more stark. In Monday's open letter to the Irish presidency, Herr Kohl and President Chirac said "the European Union treaty's provisions for co-operation in justice and home affairs are not sufficient" to combat international crime.

Mr Howard, though, said that he agreed with Herr

Kanther that improvement was "possible on the basis of existing treaties". The cloudy phrasing of the Franco-German letter in which French and German positions were glued to each other, rather than meshed into a coherent initiative, means that Britain need not start an open conflict with the Paris-Bonn axis. There is room even for relatively sceptical members of the European Union to read positive, or at least uncontroversial, thoughts into the text.

That allowed Mr Howard to say yesterday that he was in broad agreement with his German counterpart in so far as "we are practical men seeking practical solutions to practical problems". The unspoken implication was that the Kohl-Chirac initiative, while addressing a few of the practical problems such as terrorism, drug dealing and cross-border crime, was not heavy with practical solutions.



Mira Nair has asked critics to leave the film alone until the appeals procedure is over

## Indian film of Kama Sutra alarms censors

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

A SEX-PACKED film about love, *Kama Sutra*, is being studied by India's highest film censorship tribunal after lower-level censors savaged scenes of nudity and explicit love-making. The land of the world's most famous sex book is not ready to see the volume acted out on screen.

No film like it has been made before in India and its release uncut would shake the foundations of "Bollywood", the Bombay-based Hindi film industry. It is directed by Mira Nair, the director who made *Mississippi Masala* and *Salaam Bombay*.

The actresses include Rekha, who alone would draw half of India to see her in such a film. Critics have responded to an appeal by Ms Nair not to review the film or give it widespread publicity until the appeals process is complete.

Those who have seen it at a private showing are divided. "Pornographic from beginning to end," one said. Sunil Sethi, a commentator and columnist, disagreed. "It is

sexually explicit, but it would be silly to expect anything to do with the *Kama Sutra* not to be. It is not distasteful or vulgar, although there is not much of a story and the dialogue is excruciating."

The appeals tribunal is due to rule soon. Ms Nair has shown the film abroad, perhaps in the hope that it would receive the sort of acclaim given to *Bandit Queen*, which was censored so heavily in India that its director disowned it. But it has not had a big impact for all its groundbreaking venture into Indian sexuality.

*Kama Sutra* stands little chance of being shown in its entirety in India despite the esteem in which Ms Nair is held. "It is rather like those stylised Japanese films that are very explicit but which you could not call pornographic," Mr Sethi said. "It has bare breasts and side views of naked women that show everything. The love-making is graphic, but not in an ugly way. I saw nothing objectionable in it."

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## 14 STYLE

# Students discover a degree of flair



Karen Ross-Smith chose a pair of beige stretch boot-cut jeans, £49.99, and a cobalt long-sleeved t-shirt, £19.99, both by French Connection



Tamara Barnett chose a stone mini-skirt, £34, and an orange belted jumper, £48, both by Jigsaw, 128-127 New Bond Street, London W1



Claire Coleman chose black stretch trousers, £50, and a white stretch poplin shirt, £50, both by French Connection, 99 Long Acre, London WC2

**I**t is 11 on a foggy morning outside King's College, Cambridge, and students are cycling past in a drab collection of tracksuits, fading jeans, zip-up fleeces, jackets and waxed jackets.

What on earth is going on? I was here from 1987 to 1990 and spent a good deal of time malingering on this same wall, and, to be frank, students were wearing the same thing then. I feel like a character from *Groundhog Day*. Time just hasn't moved on.

And we had an excuse. It was the late Eighties, and student fashion was either of the right-on, all black, second-hand kind, or it was aspirational. Sometimes it was a bit of both (I was in awe of a friend who owned a Body Map dress, bought for her by her mother). Many students were obsessed with black-tie events, donning the full kit even though the alcohol was

Style Editor Grace Bradberry returns to her alma mater to see how Cambridge students dress now and to ask them how they would spend £100

served up in a plastic bucket. Many student wardrobes had split personalities: fading "Indie" T-shirts hung next to blue blazers and chinos. Laura Ashley ballgowns with big bows next to shapeless grey leggings. If dress is an indicator of character, as some claim, then we were a mixed-up bunch. On only a few points is my conscience clear — I never owned a waxed jacket, I never wore outside rugby shirts to curry favour with the men, and I never, ever, tucked jeans into black boots.

The ethnic craze was also in full swing, though a cursory glance around the marketplace revealed that that hasn't changed. We weren't as label obsessed as other sub-sections

of society at the time — but among the many things I learnt as an undergraduate was that Joseph was a highly desirable designer shop.

But the one thing that really defined Cambridge fashion, then as now, was the weather.

Even science students, who should know better, believe it is the coldest place on earth. Ice forms on the inside of windows, freezing fog hangs permanently over the river. Like Sir Randolph Fiennes, undergraduates take a survivalist attitude to clothes, which explains why even the most fashion-conscious haven't gone for this season's lean, mean silhouette.

Take Claire Coleman, a 19-year-old linguist at Queens' College. By late November,

she was wearing five tops. "People warned me about the weather here, but I wouldn't listen. It's actually colder here than the ski resort where I worked in my year off."

The top layer is a multi-coloured South American jacket bought in a shop in Guildford for £60. "But you can get them on the market here." Underneath that, there's a Gap sweatshirt, a rugby shirt, and an ageing fleece. Finally, there's a T-shirt from a Paul Weller concert buried at the bottom. So the top half alone adds up to more than £100, even before you get down to Claire's second-hand Levi's and Miss Selfridge trainers. She'd like to wear cubby clothes but fears hypothermia.

It's not just the cold that cramps people's style. Cambridge remains the spiritual home of young fogies. In my time there was a bizarre character who spent his time parading round Trinity Great Court in tweed breeches and a hunting jacket. He also rode a tricycle. Other students wore cravats.

On the evidence of a day

spent in the city, things have improved. But not that much. "Cambridge is quite traditional," says Jess Boyde, 21, a social anthropology student at Downing College. "My clothes have become a bit more theatrical since I arrived, but that's all you can say. And I don't go to many black-tie events — they're usually linked to sports and drinking clubs."

Jess is heavily into fur this

season, as are most of the

designers. But her look came

at cut-prices — the grey fur hat

cost a mere £12 in Accessorize,

while the coat was £15 from a

market stall. She bought the

white shirt from Miss

Selfridge five years ago, and

the pinstripe turn-ups came

from Oxfam for £2. The shoes

are the most expensive item —

they cost £30 from Office.

But lack of funds has not

stopped some students from

acquiring a frighteningly ad-

vanced fashion philosophy.

"It's not worth buying catwalk

cast-offs from high street

stores. If you want designer stuff, then you should buy the original, because ironically it's the designer things which last," says Tamara Barnett, 19, an English student at King's. "I go to places like Jigsaw to get staples that will go with lots of things and will wear well." Her combat pants (£30), and fake fur jacket (£80) come from Boxfresh in Covent Garden; the trainers from

Jess Boyde: "My clothes have become a bit more theatrical, but that's all you can say"

DON'T GET FLUSTERED ABOUT THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.



Karen Ross-Smith: trainers

Sneaker Stadium in New York

The more fashion-conscious students pick up on a mix of catwalk trends and street style. "You have to go to London to see what's happening," says Karen Ross-Smith, a 20-year-old social psychology student. "I bought these trainers for £60 in Office. I've also bought a pair of lime green and brown boggie trousers from Oasis, for £30."

The last word goes to Petra Jones, a 20-year-old Newham student, who apologises for the extravagance of her black velvet coat from Monsoon (£100 in a sale). "I'd never heard of all the designer names until I came to Cambridge," she says.

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What men

Joseph Correa



Parting of the ways: Diana, Princess of Wales, with her not-so-new style and Rod Stewart, who, after 20 years of spiky locks, has changed his look.



REUTERS ALL ACTION

## Immortal hair

To enter the Hair Hall of Fame, you need a style so personal it transcends fashion, says Lowri Turner



Lost locks: Sarah Fawcett

**N**ever has so much fuss been made of a wonky parting. Diana, Princess of Wales, has unveiled a new hairstyle, the principal feature of which is a zigzag parting. Immediately, the great and the good of the crimping world have stepped forward to praise her for being on the cutting edge of coiffure. But look closely. How different is the Princess's "new" look from all the others she has modelled over the years? A certain courageous sleekness and that curious parting aside, it is barely altered. In truth, it is just the most recent in a long line of "new" royal hairstyles that never were.

In adopting this, her latest, not-so-new hairstyle, the Princess has confirmed her hollowed place in the Immortal Hair Hall of Fame. Holders of this glittering honour have a style so personal it transcends cultish notions of "in" or "out". Not that it is easy to remain aloof from the ebb and flow of contemporary style. It requires guts, determination, a hairdresser you trust and a sharp eye kept on the mirror. A certain strength of character and stridency of opinion come in jolly handy.

There can be few more witheringly dismissive of any

hint of trendiness than Baroness Thatcher. From the moment she stepped inside No 10, her hairstyle became immovable. Some credit for this must go to her personal hairdresser, a certain Paul Alain, who explained in 1989: "A firm set is essential, as she might be driving a tank later in the day."

Out of office, some might have expected a degree of loosening up. But that is to misunderstand the nature of the Immortal Hair wearer. They are making a psychological rather than a fashion statement. In Lady Thatcher's case, she is proclaiming her steadfastness by virtue of a large dose of Elnett. In common with the Queen, who has had the same perm since 1972, and the Princess Royal (the eternal, beehive), Lady Thatcher has creased herself into the crimping world's Rock of Gibraltar. The same could be said of Barbara Cartland. Her choux pastry-puff coil is a confection so remarkable that several of her pekinines could quite comfortably shelter within it during inclement weather.

Apart from a love of back-combing, what all these women share is fame. And, indeed, were they not quite so well-known, their timewarp tresses might get them some strange looks at the checkout at Tesco. The line between being an icon of unchanging style and looking as if you are living in another decade is a fine one.

In truth, there are two types of Immortal Hair wearer. Those who actively seek inclu-

sion in the hair Hall of Fame and those who have it thrust upon them. Twiggy's Vidal Sassoon wedge-cut sums up the geometric mid-Sixties. She wore it for only a short time, yet we will forever associate her with it. Sarah Fawcett is just as imprisoned by her Charlie's Angels flicks, despite having peeled them back almost 20 years ago. Will Jennifer Anniston, the *Friends* actress whose life and flip hairdo has taken the world's salons by storm, feel a similar need to destroy her own creation?

One who has taken the plunge is Rod Stewart. Part rock god, part cocktail, after 20 years of spiky locks, Stewart now has a close crop. His young wife, the model Rachel Hunter, is said to have loathed the old look. And as Kieran Tomes, from *GQ*, says: "The woman often has quite a lot to do with it when a bloke changes his hair."

"Men get stuck because they think they look attractive, or because it makes them feel young," explains Newby Hands, the health and beauty director of *Harpers & Queen*.

The hairdresser Trevor Sorbie is blunter still. "Men tend to cling to the style of their youth because that was when they probably had the most pulling power," he says. Mick Jagger, Brian May, of Queen, Status Quo's Francis Rossi and the nightclub owner Peter Stringfellow all come to mind.

"Very few fashionable hair-styles are flattering," warns Newby Hands.

The supermodel Helena Christensen's new pudding-bowl style is proof of that. Instead,

the celebrity snapper Nicky Clark advises "evolution". Clark has recently cut his own trademark long curly. "There comes a point when you have to move on," he explains.

This is a sentiment with which Julie Goodyear, a former landlady of the Rovers Return in *Coronation Street*, might concur. There was a point, a few years back, when her on-screen bee-hive almost deserved separate billing in the *Radio Times*.

Then scriptwriters had a brainwave — a fire at the Rovers. Nothing less than a full-scale inferno could have excused the sight of Beate in her nightie, without her beehive. It was never to reappear, except in the memory of viewers of course, where it remains well, immortal.

## The truth under that healthy skin

Beneath all its crackpot philosophising about the joys of playing badminton in the buff, *Health & Efficiency* was really a prototype for porn mags

I once told a friend that a magazine called *Homes and Ideas* had asked to photograph my kitchen. "Great idea," he said, "a magazine devoted to real estate and philosophy." On that basis, *Health & Efficiency* should have been the magazine of the age after all, the whole of society now seems convulsed with either a pseudo-medical, morally preening narcissism or scorched-earth economising.

When *Health & Efficiency* started, there was something shameful about nudity. And that carried on, and still does for some; my maternal grandmother, who for some reason was educated in part at a convent, told me of having (like the Antonia White character in *Frost in May*) to take baths while wearing a cover-all

its creators or contributors. I am perfectly willing to believe that any number of people feel that nakedness makes its own politico-cultural point. But that point can only make sense in a society where it is considered the norm to be clothed. We still live in that society, but these days we take rather a different view of nakedness.

When *Health & Efficiency* was, from its very inception, about sterilisation. It was about what you could get away with. In Edwardian England it was considered frightfully naughty to show a lady with no clothes on, even if she was airbrushed into sanitised smoothness. (And that, after all, had an artistically respectable precedent: didn't John Ruskin run shocked from his wedding bed, having been taught, pictorially, to believe that women had no pubic hair?) These days, it takes rather more to shock us: even the magazine, revamped and vulgarised, couldn't deliver the goods. So it folded.

Of course,

Seeing the pictures of Nigella Lawson

shift. But even if modesty remains in the majority, the cultural climate has thawed.

Not everyone may agree to be a Good Thing, but when daily papers carry pictures of topless women (more invidiously influential, if one takes a dim view of increasing acreages of flesh on show, than whatever goes on between the covers of the porn mags), there is bound to be less interest in a magazine which tries to make us come over all sniggery about stark nakedness in the first place.

That might convince some people, but it doesn't convince me. I know that the magazine — or so it claimed — strove to educate, never titillate. I understand that its purpose ostensibly was to promote the ends of naturism, a dotty, if not spurious movement, devoted to spending as much time as possible without any clothes on, in the belief that the ills of society could be redressed if the fig leaf Adam and Eve adopted in shame were ripped off with pride.

But underneath all the crackpot philosophising, *Health & Efficiency* was never anything but *Fiesta* in embryonic form.

I am willing to believe

that wasn't the aim of either

T he truth is, we find such images funny now. But if we didn't see that they were intended to be naughty, we wouldn't laugh. And that is crucial. In other words, it is not quite the case that, as one useful commentator has put it, that sadly *Health & Efficiency* has fallen victim to today's salacious moral climate". Perhaps I wouldn't go so far.

Besides, when illegitimacy was held to be a shame that no child was thought to deserve bearing, children would often find out years later that the woman they thought was their mother was, all along, their grandmother. I don't say it must have been easy, though the children in question always claim it made them feel doubly loved.

In Caitlin's case, it will simply be the other way around.



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# Why Nobel despairs of mankind

A troubled ghost is interviewed by Felipe Fernández-Armesto

**A**lfred Nobel invented dynamite, foresaw the nuclear age and founded the Nobel Prizes. He died a hundred years ago this week. Yet his writings reveal him as a paradox: the great philanthropist who hated people — and himself most savagely of all. A historian's research is a dialogue of the imagination, conducted with the sources. Here the lines attributed to Nobel are quoted directly or adapted closely from his writings.

FFA: You said, "War is the horror of horrors and the greatest of all crimes", but the profits from weapons paid for your peace prize.

AN: I was an inventor by vocation, happy if just one idea a year turned out to be good. I was plagued with business, for which I had no more talent than the Man in the Moon.

The biggest source of my fortune was my invention of dynamite; but this was at least as important for construction as destruction. In New York, Texas and India in my lifetime it was even used to make rain.

FFA: You built arm factories and invented explosives used only in guns.

AN: Armaments are better peacekeepers than resolutions, banquets and long speeches. I wanted to invent a substance or a machine with such terrible power of mass destruction that war would be made impossible. As well as working on a super-weapon, I also tried to encourage international co-operation and peacekeeping alliances with my Peace Prize.

FFA: That's what it says in your will, but I'm interested in the unvoiced secrets of your mind — the hints of a darker side in your letters and your unpublished poems and novels, suppressed for long after your death by your trustees.

AN: I was a worthless meditating machine — a pitiable half-creature who should have been stifled at birth by a humane doctor.

FFA: Even the mistress you kept for years — the little shopgirl you picked up in Vienna — thought you were incapable of love.

AN: Sophie! I could have loved even her if her lack of education hadn't tortured me continually. What is mankind?

Tallies upon running about on an aimless projectile in space. I was misanthropic, it's true; there were plenty of screws loose in my head, but I was generous.

FFA: I accept that you were generous with money. But the violence of your hatreds worries me. In a play you wrote nearly at the end of your life, the heroine tortures her tormentor to death. What did you propose to tell a peace conference in 1890?

AN: A mere intensification of the precision of war weapons will not secure peace for us. War must be made as death-dealing to the civilian population at home as to the troops at the front. All war will stop short instantly, if the weapon is bacteriological.

FFA: Well, we now have both effects you wanted: bombs that can flatten a region and poison a population with one blast. When you endowed prizes for physics and medicine, were these the

sort of peace machines you had in mind?

AN: People are not ideal beings. They must be frightened and forced into peace.

FFA: Was it your lack of confidence in mankind that made you distrust democracy?

AN: In government — yes.

That sort of democracy is the tyranny of the dregs of the population. But I was in my own way a revolutionary — a social democrat, with modifications: a dictator, elected by the educated and intelligent, would improve the lot of the people. For the politics of ordinary men, I feel only contempt.

FFA: In a poem you wrote when you were 18, you call your childhood "a school for agony with death for goal".

AN: I kept my fingernails clean and was never a burden to anyone, but I never had friends. Only chance acquaintances to be discarded like a coat. You find friends in the dregs of evaporated illusions or close to the clutter of piled-up coins. You get them among dogs which you feed with other creatures' flesh and among worms, which you feed with your own.

FFA: You proposed marriage once but were rejected.

AN: I had no love in my life, no important events, no cheerful spirits, not even a strong stomach. My greatest and only petition was not to be buried alive. The person who showed me most kindness in my life was a paid servant.

FFA: You blamed your youngest brother, Emil, for his own death in an experiment with your explosives. And then you misled an inquiry about the dangers of such experiments. You claimed credit for inventing dynamite, when really it was discovered by chance, when nitroglycerine leaked into clay packaging.

AN: No, no! It was no accident. I had planned it all. The leads had nothing to do with it.

FFA: Now you sound proud of your achievements. But haven't they haunted you? Is that why you started hating yourself?

AN: They were a source of hope. The art of war, brought to perfection, will force men to live in peace.

FFA: So your unhappiness came from the failure of your search for love?

AN: It was hard to find love, except for one girl... I was in my teens... she died and my thoughts turned to duty...

FFA: But there's no evidence that she ever existed, except for one stilted poem of yours. Was she another of your inventions?

AN: Perhaps she existed once.

FFA: You had fantasies for the future. The mutually contradictory fantasies of a weapon of total obliteration and a programme of lasting peace. A lot of the work on the weapon you dreamt of was done by winners of your prizes. Now we have that weapon. It is more likely to annihilate than to save us. What I wonder about you, Mr Nobel, is whether you think it makes much difference.

The author's books include *Millennium* and (with Derek Wilson) *Reformation*.



TOO MUCH VIOLENCE ON TELEVISION...

## Judging Jeffrey's Bill

The hereditary principle is under attack — so let daughters succeed

I have some sympathy with Joseph Edward Pease, 3rd Baron Gainford, of Marlow in the County of Buckinghamshire. He may be a Guardian of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. He may have served the equally exotic Greater London Council, the Society of Surveying Technicians and the Plasterers' Company. He may have graced the portals of both Eton and Gordonstoun and wield a modest legislative power as grandson of Lloyd George Postmaster-General. But there in Who's Who is the tell abbreviation, "two d... her bro. Hon George Pease".

As the Upper House went about the nation's business on Monday, it took time to hear his lordship's complaint. "I have only daughters," he cried. "So my younger brother is next in line to my title. I would love it to go to my eldest daughter." We are to understand that Joanne Pease, like Cordelia, has richly deserved her father's honour yet been cheated of it by the cruel chance of sex: "It is no vicious blot nor other foulness... That hath deprived me of your grace and favour." But then King Lear faced only death. Lord Gainford faces new Labour.

The occasion of Lord Gainford's intervention was a debate on Lord Archer's Bill to end male primogeniture in the succession to the throne. The Bill was passed by 74 votes to 53

and goes to the Queen for her prerogative to proceed. We are told from behind the arras that permission will be granted but that the Bill will fail. These are not clement times for such legislation, let alone for a salvage job on the hereditary principle in the House of Lords. The Bill will be able to pass on to his daughter the perks of a lifetime: a seat in Parliament, an allowance of £139 per annum at public expense and a chance to vote against any legislation she likes.

FFA: You had fantasies for the future. The mutually contradictory fantasies of a weapon of total obliteration and a programme of lasting peace. A lot of the work on the weapon you dreamt of was done by winners of your prizes. Now we have that weapon. It is more likely to annihilate than to save us. What I wonder about you, Mr Nobel, is whether you think it makes much difference.

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Gummidge and Helge the Grim. But continentalists stuck to the male bloodline of Charles Martel and Pepin the Short. They were duly wiped out every century. But they stayed loyal to Frankish, or Salic, law. In England, the Normans cunningly adapted the law to ensure that the crown stayed "within the family", passing to a male unless that male was too distant from the last monarch by blood, in which case a daughter should succeed. This gave us Elizabeth I and II, Queen Anne and Queen Victoria.

Lord Archer's Bill plays fast and

loose with Merovingian tradition, but apart from that it could hardly be more modest. It extends equal opportunities to the smallest employment group imaginable: that of kings. His lordship would like to see the monarchy "brought into the 21st century" — sparing the blushes of the 20th. Under the Bill, Princess Anne would leapfrog Prince Andrew and Prince Edward, and Prince William's first-born would succeed the throne even if a girl. The line of succession to the throne would thus be gender-blind, a regal talisman of female emancipation.

When presented on Monday, the Bill was greeted with howls of "Not Content" from male peers.

They meant no ill-will towards the Princess Royal. They merely had some. The chamber echoed to the scrape of silver spoons being wrung from noble lips and thrust down the throats of a monstrous regiment of sisters. The Bill was the thin edge of a wedge driven into the heart of the British aristocracy. The new heiresses would be vulnerable to every conceivable fortune-hunter. Entail would be subject to upheaval. Estates would lose their proprietorial surnames. Daughters' spouses might demand the courtesy title of lord. It was one thing for a peer's woman to be chaste to his title. But a peeress's man?

There are moments when I must take down the calendar from the wall, blow off the dust and gaze intently at the date. Is this really 1996, or is Britain running a thousand years ahead of itself? The exclusion of direct female heirs from the British royal succession goes back to Frankish elders emerging from the wastes of the Zuyder Zee to insist that Merovingian kings should always be men. Strength in battle was all. The Ancient Britons and Vikings might go to war under Boadicea,

The trouble with silly questions is that they invite silly answers. How to reform heredity to make it "fairer" is at heart a silly question. The daughters of aristocrats are not, on the whole, an oppressed class. Lord Archer wants to make the royal line legal under the Sex Discrimination Act. Yet if the throne is not to be sexist, what about agnates? If we are to clear this corner of the constitutional Aegean Stables, we should surely tackle primogeniture, the "unfairness" of succession benefiting the oldest. If there is virtue in continuity, as claimed by royalists, then let it pass to the youngest. As soon as the word fairness is bandied about, the stout party in at risk of total collapse. Roll on the Roman Catholics, Stuart Pretenders, morganatics and bastards. Truly the centre will not hold when these cats are let out of the bag and start racing towards the ermine.

Hereditiy is a principle with a thousand applications. We fiercely defend it for property. The Government wants to reinforce it by abolishing inheritance tax and reducing capital taxes of all sorts. The family is political flavour of the moment, placed in the ideological pantheon above all other communal institutions. The family guides policy on education, crime and punishment, the elderly and mental health. The household gods of kith and kin appear to offer security in a troubled world. There is nothing wrong with nepotism, they all say, so long as it stays within the family.

Hereditiy becomes more controversial when it is transferred from property to the exercise of political power. This transfer irritated the constitutional theorist F.W. Maitland. To him, "the tendency of every office to become hereditary, to become property" was a development of custom. It diffused power from the monarch and fed a yearning for the stability and continuity offered by bonds of blood. Not only kings and barons, but office-holders and magistrates

such as the serjeants-at-law to which the path of constitutional reform can lead. Lord Cranborne would do better to stick to the old defence of the House of Lords, that of gradualist tradition. Even that requires sensitivity to public opinion. Every peer of my acquaintance knows that heredity as a basis for parliamentary power is on its last legs, if it means to depart the stage sometime during the next decade, heredity can at least do so with dignity. No aspect of the Lords must be as offensive — and illegal — as the denial of succession rights to daughters. Lord Archer's Bill is a first step to granting them. Whatever fate may have in store for the Lords, this reform makes sense.

Such are the serie glades to which

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H

ord Cranborne would have

to accept the logic of his proposal if it is not to seem

self-serving. If he is to keep

parliamentary status for "degenerates, wastrels and fools" chosen by

the lottery of birth, then he must

surely accept other lotteries. Perhaps

a seat in the Lords might go to every

million-pound Camelot winner. This

would honour another principle of

the Stuart monarchs, that a man

cannot reasonably be given a tide

without an estate to go with it. The

equation of wealth and nobility was

once the essence of the Upper House.

Those with a stake in the land should

have a stake in its government. How

better to drag the Lords from the 17th

to the 21st century than to enoble those Fitzroys of our age, the jackpot

millionaires?

Such are the serie glades to which

the path of constitutional reform can lead. Lord Cranborne would do better to stick to the old defence of the House of Lords, that of gradualist tradition. Even that requires sensitivity to public opinion. Every peer of my acquaintance knows that heredity as a basis for parliamentary power is on its last legs, if it means to depart the stage sometime during the next decade, heredity can at least do so with dignity. No aspect of the Lords must be as offensive — and illegal — as the denial of succession rights to daughters. Lord Archer's Bill is a first step to granting them. Whatever fate may have in store for the Lords, this reform makes sense.

H

ah, well, it's the neighbour-

hood, d'you see? It's very mixed around here.

Arabs, Jews, Asians, Japanese, all sorts of this and that.

You never know quite where you are, with a carol. Are you follow-

ing me?"

"I do believe I am," I said.

"I'm not saying you could give offence," he said. "I'm not saying that at all. People are very decent, and by large, what I'm saying is that if you started singing about the little Lord Jesus being asleep in the hay or the angels of the Lord coming down and so on and so forth, people might very well feel left out. Excluded from the festive season, as it were. Do you see what I'm driving at?"

"They wouldn't open the door," I said.

"They wouldn't open the door," he said. "Exactly my point. But with a nice non-

denominational song, with an old favourite everybody knows

where they are, am I right?"

"Galway Bay, Side By Side, My Way, I do all them, and all the

way through, I'm not one for

cutting corners, people are very

appreciative."

"I can believe it," I said,

crossing his palm with appreciation.

"You are a troubadour."

"Oh, that's very nice," he said.

"Do you recall Mr Cavan O'Conor?"

And he sang: "I'm only a

strolling vagabond, so

goodnight, pretty lady, good-

night, goodnight, pretty lady,

so goodnight, pretty lady,



## THE MINISTRY SYNDROME

Pesticide, paperwork and prevarication

More than six years after 50,000 British troops were sent to evict Saddam Hussein from Kuwait, and more than two years since questions were first asked in the House of Commons, Nicholas Soames, Armed Forces Minister, has confirmed that Parliament was seriously misled about the use of pesticides in Saudi Arabia. For most of this period, the suggestion that so-called Gulf War syndrome might have been triggered by the excessive use of organophosphate chemicals was dismissed because official records showed minimal quantities of those substances had been sent with our soldiers.

It now transpires that vast amounts of the material were acquired locally and deployed in abundance. Although any link between this discovery and the syndrome remains, for the moment, unproven, two matters are evident. First, that this practice was not conducive to the general good health of the Army. Secondly, that an appalling catalogue of blunders led ministers consistently to offer answers to their colleagues that were untrue. Neither is ever acceptable.

In his statement Mr Soames at least displayed all due humility. His pledge that the failures within the Ministry of Defence would be fully investigated, and that those civil servants responsible would be disciplined, is quite proper and must be met. Some external scrutiny is also needed for confidence to be restored. The House of Commons Select Committee on Defence, which has generally performed in a professional and bipartisan fashion, should feel no qualms in calling politicians, officials, and the military top brass before it and demanding explanations.

That such materials were being liberally used seems to have been no secret to those serving in the desert. That it escaped their

superiors, because of "inadequate accounting procedures" and apparent "failures in communications" is little short of a disgrace. The ministers involved appear to have acted honourably enough, but the whole affair reflects badly on all concerned.

Mr Soames's further announcement that two epidemiological studies into the possible effect of these organophosphates will now take place is also overdue. It has been a year since the principle of such an inquiry was accepted. It has taken too long to decide upon the details of this research. The families of the 1,100 veterans who have experienced sickness since 1991, and who have often been treated brusquely by officials, are entitled to a fully funded and rigorous examination of this discovery.

The minister's comments that he would continue to co-operate as closely as possible with the Pentagon on these questions is to be welcomed. Whether or not such concerns are justified, accusations that Gulf War syndrome has not been followed with proper attention are bound to increase in the light of what Mr Soames conceded yesterday. They cannot be permitted to persist. The Ministry of Defence has promised the most open approach. It must now deliver.

At this stage incompetence rather than conspiracy or cover-up looks the most likely explanation. That is not much compensation for those affected. Belated acknowledgement and apology is better than none at all but events can hardly be allowed to rest there. Whether there is a syndrome that can be traced directly to the Gulf conflict is obviously important but now only part of the issue. Parliament must fully satisfy itself that much wider irregularities have not been masked by the same procedures that prompted the Soames statement.

## HEAD AND HEART

Meanwhile over the Channel...

Today the House of Commons holds its European debate. Tomorrow finance ministers make a new attempt to agree the single currency's "stability pact". This weekend comes the EU summit itself. Sounds and furies will fill the corridor. But step back for a moment. What does Britain's debate about monetary union and the future of Europe tell us about the real relations between this country and its neighbours?

At every point, it seems, the differences overwhelm the ties that bind. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, for example, is taken by both his friends and his enemies to be the Cabinet minister most sympathetic to the single currency. Yet he tells a parliamentary committee this week that a delay in starting monetary union is very probable and that there is a 40 per cent chance that it will not happen at all. Any senior German politician who speculated so openly on the chances of delay and failure would be taken for a fool determined to damage himself.

There has been debate across the Channel over monetary union. But it has been of a quite different character from the argument here. Helmut Kohl's moves towards the launch of the euro have been protected by the taboo in his country against open dissent. German opposition must be mounted in covert ways. Debate in and between France and Germany does not turn on the aim of the single currency but on the means to make it work.

The tension over the stability pact, which Herr Kohl and President Chirac failed to resolve in Nuremberg on Monday, is a power struggle to determine how authority will be exercised over the economies in the future euro zone. However difficult the row this week, the ultimate aim remains unquestioned. By concentrating on the immediate of "excessive deficits" and a pact

designed to supplement the Maastricht treaty, French politicians can distract themselves from less agreeable questions. Stability pact or not, how much autonomy can the French State expect to preserve in a fully fledged economic, monetary and political union? No mainstream French politician has asked the question out loud in this form. The answer, of course, is precious little.

For politicians on the Continent this truth is an irrelevancy. They assume that the single currency is going to happen; the only unanswered questions concern the exact composition of the leading group. The aim of monetary union is political and not economic: it is to control Germany's power. Westminster debates the single currency and the Government defends the wait-and-see policy as if it were a purely economic matter. This habit of reasoning the rights and wrongs of European integration looks eccentric across the Channel, where "making Europe" is a totem of moral excellence and an affair of heart, not head.

Britons may observe the last-minute doubts inside the French political class and wonder if there may be a change of heart at the eleventh hour; but the odds are against. President Chirac may have been ambivalent about Europe in the past but he has inherited a commitment to the euro which he cannot abandon without, as France sees it, great loss of power and influence.

The gap between the political culture of the Continent and Britain's is vast and in the long run more significant than that which divides Westminster's politicians. Chancellor Kohl's passionate will to entrench European unification around his own country and France by means of the single currency was always going to be divisive; the outline of the division between Britain and its partners grows daily more visible.

## WIRRAL WAITS

The Government should respect by-election conventions

Putting the curious position of Sir John Gorst to one side, the Government will lose its majority once Barnsley East casts its ballot tomorrow night. It would become a minority administration were the electorate of Wirral South to reject the Conservatives when they replace the late Barry Porter.

If, however, those who inhabit the dark corners of the Whips' Office and Conservative Central Office get their way, no such opportunity will occur. Citing spurious precedent and obviously heartfelt concern about the time, expense and inconvenience of asking those voters to venture to the polls twice between now and May 22, 1997 — the last legal date when a general election may be called — the party managers apparently see no reason why a by-election should be held there at all.

The conventions that structure such matters are, admittedly, relatively recent. Only since a Speaker's Conference in 1973 has it been accepted that a contest should be initiated, by the Chief Whip of whichever party is defending a seat within three months of an existing Member's departure and that an election should follow very shortly afterwards. This guideline emerged in response to the frequent tardiness prevalent before then and the formula has been ignored on a handful of occasions out of the 120 or so instances since, usually for reasons of practicality such as the long summer recess intervening between a death and the opportunity to trigger the hustings. Were it to be respected this time, the

Government would have until February 3 next year to move the writ. Wirral South would then make its choice in early March.

Only those of breathtaking naivety can make the move at work here. While Wirral remains without a Member, assuming no further defections from its ranks, the Government will not technically reach minority standing and may retain its majority on all legislative committees. With luck, John Major should be able to soldier on until April or May. Good news for Downing Street planners, but not for the residents of Wirral South, who could be deprived of proper representation for up to 200 days as a consequence.

That might have been acceptable in the last century, but not now. Members of Parliament point, correctly, to their bulging postbags and expanding casework. Three hundred such letters a week are now common. Over 8,000 inquiries might have to be dealt with on a holding basis. That does not constitute decent democratic practice.

The Government should abandon any plans it might have of avoiding the electorate. If it refuses to do so, the Opposition must have no qualms in offering the writ itself. If this extremely reasonable convention cannot be enforced by the House, then it should be placed on a statutory basis. Those who pay for Parliament are entitled to full constituency service. No taxation without representation is as worthy a principle for Wirral South residents as it was for Washington's revolutionaries. Were it to be respected this time, the

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 8KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Awearying of Kenneth Clarke

From Mr Howard Reynolds

Sir, One grows weary at the admiration shown for Kenneth Clarke (Andrew Reid's letter, December 9) and reading of his success as Chancellor (Riddell on Monday, same day).

A recession triggered in large part by the policies of Nigel Lawson, then deepened by an ERM commitment "negotiated" by, in my view, an epicly incompetent successor (now Prime Minister), pitched the United Kingdom into a new economic Dark Age.

Thanks, finally, to the intervention of the markets, the economy began to recover. But recovery did not then and does not now have much to do with Her Majesty's Government, nor does the current display of elementary common sense — long overdue though it is in a Conservative Chancellor — mark out Mr Clarke as a fiscal giant of our times.

The palpable truth for this Government is that no matter how much it strives to rewrite recent history, nor how vigorously its supporters seek electoral rehabilitation through the adulation of an unremarkable Chancellor, the Conservative record of economic mismanagement is unlikely to be forgotten or forgiven. Though the general election may be fought some time between now and May 1997, the Conservatives actually lost as long ago as Wednesday, September 16, 1992.

Yours sincerely,  
HOWARD M. REYNOLDS.  
140 Greencroft, Wetheral, Cumbria.

From Mr Simon Palmer

Sir, Mr Andrew Reid tells us what a successful Chancellor of the Exchequer we have and it is thanks to him we have such a strong economy. Piffle!

Our economy is stronger than of yore because of continuing high unemployment, lack of confidence in a bumpy marketplace and a workforce, in fear of losing their jobs, prepared to work harder for less money.

Negative equity has not gone away; inflation is due to rise shortly after the general election when the real facts will emerge and a presumably Labour government will be left to pick up the pieces.

Yours etc.  
S. PALMER.  
5 Courtside, Coolhurst Road, NS.  
December 9.

### Christian millennium

From Mr Michael Smith

Sir, After pressure from the Prince of Wales and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Virginia Bottomley has promised that the millennium should be an essentially Christian event (report, December 2).

Two aspects need to be considered: the form and the content. The first could include pilgrimages by church congregations to holy places such as Canterbury, York, Walsingham, Lincolnshire, Iona, Assisi and the Holy Land, as well as the mass pealing of church bells.

Equally important is the substance. This should surely include expressions of gratitude for the contribution that Christian virtues have made to global development, as well as a commitment by individuals to renew the spiritual dimension in their lives in an age of increasing secularisation. But it might also include a note of repentance for past wrongs committed by Christians, from the Crusades onwards, who have failed to live by their creed and morality.

The next centuries will see an increasing dialogue between the world's great faiths and their spheres of influence, but we are still a long way from a basis of trust. If the "Christian party to whom everyone is welcome", as Dr Carey calls the millennium celebrations, could also help renew the trust between, for instance, Western culture and Islam, then we would really have something to celebrate.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL SMITH.  
46 Stanton Road, Wimbledon, SW20.  
December 4.

### Brunel auction

From the President of  
the Newcomen Society

Sir, Whilst we are fortunate that some of Brunel's papers are already in safe keeping at Bristol University Library, it is a matter of extreme regret that the latest rich archive, lost to view for so many years, has not also been placed in the public domain [letter, December 7].

The engineering profession has made a major contribution to the development of Britain's wealth and power. Only through archives such as this one can we fully understand and assess that contribution. How can we ensure that papers of other engineers can be kept together for the benefit of future historians, if those of one as renowned as I. K. Brunel can be dispersed?

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL R. BAILEY, President,  
The Newcomen Society for  
the Study of the History of  
Engineering and Technology,  
The Science Museum, SW7.  
December 4.

Business letters, page 27

### Global responsibilities in fighting the spread of Aids

From Professor Michael Adler

Sir, Neither your feature of December 2, "The city that is dying of Aids", nor your leading article of the same day, "Day of Aids", highlights what I regard as the fundamental global issue

— the fact that 95 per cent of the estimated 30 million people who will be infected with HIV by the end of the decade, with two million dying a year, live in developing countries.

It is therefore alarming that the Overseas Development Administration's budget continues to fall in real terms. In 1996-97 the cut was 5.4 per cent (£124 million), and in last week's Budget it was 7 per cent (£155 million) for 1997-98; by that year Britain's bilateral aid programme is likely to have fallen to three quarters of its 1993 value.

This reflects a lack of real commitment and responsibility towards developing countries. It is all the more unfortunate since potential HIV vaccines will have to be tested in countries with high levels of infection, such as those in sub-Saharan Africa.

If a vaccine is found to be effective in these countries, where the per capita health budget is anything between \$4 and \$8 per year, host governments will clearly be unable to afford vaccination for their entire population, any more than they can yet afford the latest antiviral therapies.

A recent American study shows that AZT can considerably reduce mother-to-baby transmission, which runs at 30 per cent in Africa. In most developing countries, the cost of 15/2 capsules

of AZT is equivalent to the annual per capita health budget. The developing world, however, can offer research opportunities for AZT for mother-to-baby transmission, such as by the use of lower doses, or of higher doses for shorter concentrated periods.

We in a developed country will thus be using developing countries to prove the efficacy of vaccines and new therapies, but will potentially not be making the benefits of that research available to those who participated in it, or to others at risk.

This is surely unethical. Justice demands that those who bear the risks or burden of scientific investigation should share the benefits.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL ADLER,  
University College London  
Medical School.

The Mortimer Market Centre,  
Mortimer Market,  
Capper Street, WC1.

December 3.

From Professor Emeritus  
Gordon T. Stewart

Sir, Official and verifiable statistics prove that in the UK (as in most of Europe) Aids is still a very uncommon disease, with about 1,500 new cases per year confined to high-risk minorities among some homosexual men, drug addicts and their consorts.

It is essentially self-inflicted and avoidable, as is obvious from the lack of appreciable spread by heterosexual transmission in the general population, even in New York City, an orig-

inal epicentre of the disease. Surveillance there showed very few registrations of Aids other than in risk groups in the 74,616 cases registered between 1982 and March 1995.

This concentrates but does not minimise the problem. In New York City, 65 per cent of men, 70 per cent of women and 90 per cent of infants with Aids come from black/Hispanic minorities. In the UK, the overall incidence of Aids between 1982 and 1995 in black women was 140 out of 100,000, compared with 2.9 in white and 1.6 in Asian women. Infants born to black women are 100 times more likely to suffer from Aids than those born to Asian women.

These figures reflect the high frequencies of Aids reported from some — by no means all — regions of the less-developed world, where Aids currently overlaps with an immense spread of all sexually-transmissible and many other indigenous infections, notably tuberculosis. The call for improvement in specific medication is undeniable, but the more urgent priority, and the only available method for successful prevention, is an understanding and explicit description of the risk behaviours and other lifestyle factors anywhere which bring about these immense differences.

I am, yours etc,  
GORDON T. STEWART  
(Professor of Public Health,  
University of Glasgow, 1972-83,  
Glasgow, Clifton Down, Bristol.  
December 5.

### South Downs at risk

From Sir Chris Bonington,  
President of the Council for  
National Parks, and others

Sir, The South Downs have long been celebrated for their great natural beauty, are a treasured part of our national inheritance and receive many more visits than any of our National Parks. Despite this they have never been given the recognition they deserve and urgently need, if they are to withstand the pressures placed upon them.

The Philip Lawrence Memorial Awards will demonstrate the multitude of examples of good citizenship by our young people and encourage more to get involved. It is an excellent start.

Yours sincerely,

ELISABETH HOODLESS,

Executive Director, CSV,  
237 Pentonville Road, N1.

5 December.

### Heart to hub

From Dr Robin M. Weller

Sir, The morning after a particularly good Saturday night party a while back, though less alert than usual, my wife and I listened to a sermon at 9.30 Mass in Clifton Cathedral based on St Matthew vi: 19:

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where ... thieves break through and steal".

On our return home, we found an open window at the back of the house, and the video, etc, gone.

Does this count as prophylactic counselling? It certainly worked. Despite the damage, we smiled all day. I have since had five hubcaps stolen (letters, November 28, December 5).

Yours sincerely,

ROBIN WELLER,

2 Miles Road,  
Clifton, Bristol.

5 December.

### Aerospace industry

From Mr Nicholas Binns

Sir, The letter from Mr Mark Hendrick MEP, (November 26) concerning the cancellation of projects such as the TSR2, HS681 tactical transport and the PI154 was the hallmark of that ridiculous Government. Indeed the latter is doubly ironic in the view of the subject of Mr Hendrick's letter [PI154 was a supersonic, vertical take-off aircraft for the Navy and Air Force — Britain's Joint Strike Fighter in 1968]. All these projects were replaced in British service by American types.

The submission by Mr Hendrick that



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
December 10: The Queen held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister) and First Lord of the Treasury had an audience of Her Majesty this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Master of Trinity House, was represented by Rear Admiral Patrick Rowe at the Memorial Service for Sir Eric Drake which was held in St Olave's Church, Hart Street, London EC3, today.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
December 10: The Duke of York today visited Kingston upon Hull and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the East Riding of Yorkshire [Mr Richard Marion].

His Royal Highness this morning presented certificates to members of the Hull Community Purpose programme at the Quality Royal Hotel, Kingston upon Hull.

The Duke of York later visited the Defence School of Transport, Leekwold.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Driffield School, Mainford Road, Driffield.

**CLARENCE HOUSE**  
December 10: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this evening at a Reception in St James's Palace given by the Racing Welfare Charities to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Grand National.

The Hon Mrs Rhodes and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
December 10: The Prince of Wales today visited Bristol and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Bristol (Mr James Tidmarsh).

His Royal Highness, President, Business in the Community, this morning visited the Greenwich Centre, Southwark.

The Prince of Wales afterwards opened the new Sun Life Headquarters, Brierly Furlong, Stoke Gifford, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Bristol Cancer Help centre, Clifton, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Bristol.

The Prince of Wales last night opened the Music Department, Victoria Rooms, Bristol University.

## Today's royal engagements

His Royal Highness this evening gave a Reception at St James's Palace for Heritage organisations.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, later attended the premiere of "First Contact" at Empire Leicester Square, London WC2.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
December 10: The Duke of Gloucester today visited the West Midlands and was received on arrival by Mr F.C. Graves (Deputy Lieutenant) of the West Midland.

His Royal Highness visited Fujitsu Telecommunications Europe Limited, Solihull Park Way, Birmingham Business Park, and afterwards opened the new regional headquarters of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, Edgbaston Park, 352 Bridgford Road.

The Duke of Gloucester visited St Basil's Hostel, Edgewood House, Sterling Road, Edgbaston to launch their Silver Jubilee Appeal.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Royal Army Educational Corps Association, this morning visited the Royal Hospital Chelsea, London SW1.

**YORK HOUSE**  
December 10: The Duke of Kent this morning opened the William Morris Building, Coventry University, Gosford Street, Coventry, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

His Royal Highness, as Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this afternoon visited Jaguar Cars Limited, Browns Lane, Allesley, Coventry, West Midlands.

The Duke of Kent this evening attended a dinner given by the Ambassador of Spain, at Belgrave Square, London SW1.

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK**  
December 10: Princess Alexandra, Vice-Patron of the Young Women's Christian Association of Great Britain, this afternoon received Mrs Jenny Cooper upon retiring as President and Mrs Sheila Brain on assuming the appointment.

Her Royal Highness, President, accompanied by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended a Christmas Carol Concert in aid of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in St Paul's Cathedral, London EC4.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr H.J.W. Harper and Miss H.K.M. Christian. The engagement is announced between Hugh, younger son of Mrs P. Canale, of Instow, North Devon, and Mr T.J. Harper, of Littleport, Cambridgeshire, and Hilary, only daughter of Mr and Mrs W.D. Christian, of Lyme Regis, Dorset.

Mr D.S. Mackintosh and Miss B.K. Taylor. The engagement is announced between Steven (Tosh), younger son of Mr and Mrs John Brian Mackintosh, of Nannerch, Flintshire, and Belinda Kate, daughter of Dr and Mrs Frank Taylor, of Silsoe, Bedfordshire.

Mr H. McAlpine and Miss K.J. Nicholls. The engagement is announced between Hamish, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Malcolm McAlpine, of Highfields, Withyham, Sussex, and Karen, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Trevor Nicholls, of St Albans, Hertfordshire.

**Marriage**

Dr J.S. Barnes and Mrs S.E. Horras. The marriage took place at Bishop's Stortford Register Office on December 7, of Dr John Stefan Barnes and Mrs Sandra Elizabeth Horras, nee Simpson.

**Birthdays today**

Brigadier R.W. Asworth, registrar, St Paul's Cathedral, 58; Admiral of the Fleet Sir Edward Ashmore, 71; Miss Anna Carteret, actress, 54; Lord Elliot of Morycote, 76; Sir Robert Fellowes, Private Secretary to the Queen, 55; Mr Andrew Lansley, former director, Conservative Research Department, 40; Mr Cliff Michelmore, broadcaster and television producer, 71; Sir Wilfrid Newton, former chairman, London Regional Transport, 68; Ms Karin Pappenheim, director, National Council for One Parent Families, 42; Mr D.E. Plowright, former chairman, Granada Television, 66; Mr Carlo Ponti, film producer, 83; Mr Patrick Reynolds, glass painter, 71; Mr Raymond Robertson, MP, 57; Mr Alexander Solzenitsyn, author, 76; Miss S.A. Spencer, former general secretary, National Council for Civil Liberties, 44; Mrs Sheila Walker, former chief commissioner, Girl Guides Association, 79.

**Service dinners**

**HMS Victory**  
Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, was the host at a dinner held onboard the flagship HMS Victory in Portsmouth last night. Among the guests were the High Commissioner for South Africa, the Shadow Lord Chancellor and Lady Irvine, and the Naval Adviser to the South African High Commissioner and Mrs Soderlund.

**HMS Battus**  
Lady Callaghan of Cardiff, Sponsor, was the guest of honour at a farewell dinner held last night onboard HMS Battus, a ship of the Royal Navy.

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, KG, and former Commanding Officers were present.

**The Queen's Royal Lancasters**  
Sir Nigel Broome, HM Ambassador to Germany, was the guest of honour at a regimental dinner held last night in Osnabrück, Germany. Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Swinburn presided.

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, KG, and former Commanding Officers were present.

**Reception**

**Portuguese Ambassador**

The Portuguese Ambassador was the host at a reception at 12 Belgrave Square, yesterday, on the occasion of the publication of *The Jews in Portugal*, Rabbi Abraham Levy and Sir Sigmund Sternberg spoke.

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**Reception</b**

ring bulbs  
in winter

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11 1996

19

## OBITUARIES

# RAPHAEL SAMUEL

Raphael Samuel, historian, died of lung cancer on December 9 aged 62. He was born on September 26, 1934.

**A**fter the death of E. P. Thompson in 1993, that of Raphael Samuel is the gravest loss to the profession of history — but to a special kind of history, rooted in left-wing politics, and aiming to rediscover the lives of the millions overlooked by historians of big names and big events.

Thompson and Samuel had much in common. Both learnt their trade in adult education, not in the universities. Both left the Communist Party in 1956 to devote themselves to the New Left, which sought to free the spirit of socialism from the dark record of Stalinism and also from the pragmatism of social democracy. In a speech in 1988, at a conference (or reunion) of "The New Left Years On", Samuel recalled: "We were forward-looking and iconoclastic, breaking with age-old shibboleths."

He came from a Jewish family with roots in the East End of London, and spent his boyhood as a wartime evacuee in Buckinghamshire and then in Hampstead Garden suburb, where he went to the progressive King Alfred's School. After his parents were divorced (his father was a solicitor), Raphael was brought up by his mother Minna Keal, a gifted composer, with close links to his uncle, the historian Chimen Abramsky. Minna Keal, Abramsky's wife were active and dedicated communists and the boy was initiated into the faith — though that word is unjust to the intellectual sophistication of scholarly Marxism.

Samuel was born to be an historian and was already in a Communist historians' discussion group as a precocious schoolboy. He had the vital

quality of living at the same time in the past, the present and the future.

Everything interested him, from public health to colonial rebellion and from street lighting to street fighting. Up to the end of his life he would argue as fervently about the tactics of the Chartists as about the destruction of the Labour Party (as he saw it) by Tony Blair.

At Balliol College, Oxford,

Samuel's tutor was Christopher Hill, an authority on 17th-century revolutionary traditions and another Marxist (also to leave the CP in 1956).

He gained a first and began

teaching at Ruskin College.

He was a founder, with Stuart Hall and others, of *Universities and Left Review*, a journal

born of the political turmoil

caused by the simultaneous

crisis of Hungary and Suez. It

sponsored a crowded, excited

meeting in London addressed

by yet another Marxist scholar, Isaac Deutscher.

Thompson had founded the

*New Reasoner* and there was

no room for two similar journals, so they merged in 1960 as *The New Left Review*, edited by Hall. The New Left was now a movement, with hundreds of activists who trod the road to Aldermaston and waved banners at demonstrations on all kinds of issues. Samuel was once arrested and, rather than save his time by pleading guilty and paying a fine, went to court to debate the right to remonstrate with the magistrates. He was fined anyway.

Inevitably, the atmosphere

of the movement was, in a then

popular phrase, one of creative

chaos. A Soho coffee house,

called "The Partisan", was

started not just as a rendez-

vous but as an enterprise,

which, it was confidently be-

lieved, would finance the

movement and the journal. In

the 1960s it was difficult to lose

money with a coffee house, but

the New Left managed it.

Meanwhile, Samuel was

rushing between London and

Oxford, loyal to Ruskin, where



he went on teaching until the year of his death, despite opportunities to move to more prestigious jobs. Around him, a school of new historians grew up, some in academia and some writing as freelances or "holding down mundane jobs, for one of Samuel's tenets was that there should be no distinction between amateur and professional. From the 1960s, he was the moving spirit in a loose organisation called History Workshop

which held numerous large or small meetings up or down the country for the pooling of ideas and fresh knowledge. With NLR, Samuel brought contributors together for the *History Workshop Journal*.

In appearance, and in his clothing which was casual to the point of improvisation, Samuel never changed. His long wild straying hair and his narrow eager face were perfectly right for his fervent, restless personality. He was

slightly built and thin to the verge of being cadaverous, so that friends and students were sometimes unaware of the onset of cancer. In later years he was described as looking like a 1960s character, but perhaps he was more like a Bohemian of the era of Haendel.

Together with a New Left friend, Dennis Butt, he bought a beautiful old house in Spitalfields, the district of east London first settled by Hugue-

scholars. Six years later he published, with his own money and to wide acclaim, *Verano y otros cuentos* (Summer and other stories), never needing to worry about a publisher again.

His first novel, *Coronación* (Coronation), appeared in 1957, setting for him a fame in the Spanish-speaking world which he was never to let slip. The novel, set in the mansion of a moribund madwoman in her nineties, painted a world of ruin and rot. His next novel, *El lugar sin límites* (1967, The place without limits), pursued the same grotesqueness in its portrayal of a godforsaken village in the deep south of Chile.

His methods, variously described by pundits as "so-

cialism", "neurotic realism" and "grotesque non-realism" reached their apogee in 1970, in his brilliant novel *El osceno pájaro de la noche* (The obscene bird of night). The novel is Donoso's allegory of a world in decomposition, and the author himself described it as "labyrinthine and schizophrenic... where the lived and the to-be-lived are mixed together". *Casa de Campo* (Country House), his next major novel, published in 1978, was also the story of an imagined world. "This is my best work," he was often to say.

Donoso left Chile in 1963, living first in Mexico before moving to the United States. In 1967, he settled down in Spain "to get away from the English language", swimming against the tide of intellectuals who had left Franco's country to live in other parts. He rejected the idea of novels and novelists as tools for social change.

Nonetheless, "tired of being a foreigner", he returned at last to his native Chile in 1981. "I had forgotten how to write in 'Chilean', he was to say, explaining his homecoming to friends, lamenting also that he had "missed the experience of Frei, Salvador Allende, and the Pinochet coup".

In Chile he was not politically passive, being arrested once for speaking out for human rights, and later joining the shortlived Partido por la Democracia, dedicated to the downfall of General Pinochet. On his country's return to democracy, he was awarded one of the very few literary honours he was to receive in his lifetime, the Premio Nacional de Literatura de Chile.

He is survived by his wife, María Pilar, a writer, and his daughter.

not refugees (to be succeeded in due course by waves of Jews and Bangladeshis). Besides being beautiful the house was quite large, but such houses could be picked up cheap before gentrification descended on Spitalfields. When that did happen the houses were mostly subjected to fashionable transformation. But in Samuel's house the creaky stairs, uneven floors and panelled walls were sacrosanct.

Indeed, tradition and revolution were the two poles of Samuel's compass. When it became customary on the Left to deplore what has come to be called the heritage industry, Samuel defended it. For him, popular songs, colloquial catchphrases and domestic objects of any kind were to be loved whether they had survived or whether they were being revived in fashion or advertising.

This was the theme of his book *Theatres of Memory*, which appeared in 1994 and which he planned to follow with a second volume. It was his only book as sole author, though he had collaborated on several, as well as contributing to many collections and writing countless articles and reviews.

Unlike some historians, Samuel read novels and poems and was often at the theatre or the cinema. His wife Alison Light, whom he married in 1987, is a lecturer in English literature at University College London. Samuel was always highly attractive to women, perhaps because they felt that he had to be taken care of. The marriage was supremely happy, and gave him, so far as anything could, a point of rest.

This year he was given the professorship which he should have had earlier, in his home patch, at the University of East London. He made plans for teaching and research, but did not live to implement them.

His wife and his mother survive him.

## DERRICK PUFFETT

Derrick Puffett, metacologist, died on November 14 aged 49. He was born on November 30, 1946.

AN INCISIVE and influential commentator on music, Derrick Puffett taught at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge for more than twenty years. Developing the discipline of music analysis in parallel with pioneering colleagues at King's College London, he inspired many generations of undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Puffett also edited the journal *Music Analysis* for eight years and organised one of the earliest and most successful conferences on the subject to be held in this country. Although at Cambridge his teaching built on the work of Alexander Goehr and others, it is scarcely an exaggeration to say that in bringing his discipline to the two great universities Puffett was for much of the time working almost single-handed. This was a remarkable feat, given the opposition he met with from certain quarters, and reflected the determination in his character that was evident even at the very end of his life.

Born and raised in Oxford, Derrick Robert Puffett took a first in music at New College in 1968. His DPhil thesis on the song cycles of Ottmar Schoeck made a significant impact on the composer's native Switzerland and was published there in 1982. In Britain, Puffett's reputation was before him and he was appointed to a lectureship at Cambridge in 1984, where he was a Fellow of St John's.

Here he was able to supervise a succession of gifted research students and to become a focal point for his colleagues through his editorial activities. Visitors to his rooms were assured of a warm welcome, closely followed by a grilling about their own work, which rapidly turned into an exhilarating tutorial.

Although he had been among the first British scholars in the field of music analysis to recognise and adopt the methods of the international music theory community, Puffett never allowed his formidable intellect to be seduced by mere theoretical rigour.

On the contrary, in his writings and no less in his conversation, theory and method were placed at the service of intense and sustained observation, motivated by nothing other than a love of the music itself. It was above all in showing how a truly extraordinary level of rigour could inform the empirical aspect of technical commentary on music that Puffett was a lasting inspiration to his students and colleagues alike.

He is survived by his wife Kathryn Bailey, herself a distinguished writer on music.

## JOSÉ DONOSO

José Donoso, Chilean novelist, died in Santiago on December 7 aged 72. He was born on September 25, 1924.

IT WAS typical of José Donoso that he should have furnished, on the very last day of his life, an intriguing anecdote that will keep scholars at Spanish literature faculties scratching their heads for a very long time.

As he lay in bed, dying from the gastric ulcer which he acquired as a youth in Mexico, his daughter offered to read some poetry aloud to him. "T. S. Eliot or Vicente Huidobro?" she asked, certain that he would prefer the former, a lifelong favourite, to the latter, a slightly precious



Donoso's first stories were, in fact, written in English for the university magazine at Princeton in 1949, where he had obtained a postgraduate

scholarship. Six years later he published, with his own money and to wide acclaim, *Verano y otros cuentos* (Summer and other stories), never needing to worry about a publisher again.

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He is survived by his wife, María Pilar, a writer, and his daughter.

## DR CLIVE BREMNER CAMERON

Dr Clive Bremner Cameron, cancer specialist, died on November 13 aged 75. He was born in New Zealand on September 28, 1921.

AS a working member of the department of clinical pathology at the Royal Marsden Hospital, "Brem" Cameron was a respected specialist in his chosen field of biochemistry. It was, however, in another role that he made an outstanding and distinguished contribution both to the hospital and to the Institute of Cancer Research with which it was associated. In the early 1970s, he was elected by his consultant colleagues as chairman of the hospital's Medical Committee, a body which provided the forum for discussion of all matters of medical interest and which advised the board of governors on medical policy.

Cameron's appointment proved to be of great significance, and was to impose upon him untold demands of time and energy. It needs to be set against a background of the traditional rivalry between medical disciplines and, more importantly, of the external pressures (political, medical and academic) on postgraduate teaching hospitals in general and the Royal Marsden Hospital in particular.

Cameron soon emerged as a leader of integrity and vision, trusted and respected throughout the hospital and institute. The initial task of integrating and reconciling research interests was daunting and would take several years to complete. Cameron, who had no personal ambition other than to establish a meaningful and lasting union of the two organisations, approached the many difficult situations and personalities

involved with remarkable diplomacy, patience and resolve, as well as unfailing courtesy, kindness and humour.

Even those who held contrary views or found their personal ambitions opposed, felt bound to acknowledge his impartiality and wisdom. If anger or disappointment loomed, as was inevitable from time to time, Cameron's own feelings would be skilfully concealed lest any progress, however small, be

impaired. It is significant that, without known precedent, he was invited to remain as chairman of the Medical Committee for a second term of three years.

He subsequently became Dean of the Institute of Cancer Research and in the closest association with the Director of the Institute and his successor as Medical Committee chairman, he was able to continue the essential process of integration and to build on the foundation which he had already laid.

Clive Bremner Cameron was born in New Zealand and educated at King's College Auckland and Otago University. Arriving in England on a merchant ship in 1946, he

survives him.

## ON THIS DAY

December 11, 1917

To read this passage is to be reminded of the voice and words of Churchill 23 years later at another time when this country was in great danger.

and sufferings which we have not deserved, which we cannot avoid, but under which we shall not bend. (Loud cheers.) There never was a moment in this war when the practical steps which we ought to take showed themselves more plainly, or when the choice presented to us was so brutally clear as it is to-night. Are not our war aims clear? Can we not discern what our war aims are? Do we not know in our hearts what our war aims are? Why, they are exactly what they were on that breathless night in August, 1914 (general cheering), when we knew that the Belgian frontier had been crossed by German armies in repudiation of their solemn covenant and of all law that had existed in the world; when that small weak people who trusted to the plighted word of German rulers were brutally and mercilessly trampled in the mire. Our war aims are the same as they were in 1914. We have not increased them, we shall not diminish them by one jot or tittle. (Renewed cheering.)

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## No private law remedy for excess detention

**Olotu v Home Office and Another**

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice; Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Mummery  
Judgment November 29

Where a prospective plaintiff, who had been committed for trial and held in custody, had been detained for a period in excess of the 112-day time limit between committal and arraignment, without any further order of the court extending the period, no private law right of action for damages lay against the Home Office for false imprisonment or against the Crown Prosecution Service for breach of statutory duty.

The Court of Appeal so held:

(i) dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Isidore Olotu, from Miss Barbara Dohmann, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division (*The Times* May 8, 1996) on an application by the Home Office that struck out the plaintiff's claim for damages against it for false imprisonment.

(ii) allowing an appeal by the CPS from the judge's refusal to strike out the plaintiff's claim against it for breach of the Prosecution of Offences (Custody Time Limits) Regulations (SI 1987 No 299), as amended by the Prosecution of Offences (Custody Time Limits) (Amendment) Regulations (SI 1989 No 767) and the Prosecution of Offences (Custody Time Limits) (Amendment) Regulations (SI 1991 No 323).

The plaintiff, on the facts as stated for the purposes of the defendants' striking out applications, had been detained in custody by the magistrates' court for trial in the crown court.

She was detained in prison under section 1 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 and on a warrant of commitment sent to the governor which directed him to keep her there until she was "delivered in due course of law"; a phrase accepted by the parties as referring to delivery to the crown court. The

expiry date of the 112-day time limit was specified on the warrant.

Following her detention at the prison for a period of 81 days in excess of that time limit she began an action against the Home Office, as the department with responsibility for the prison governor in whose custody she had been, and against the CPS for its failure to bring her before the court shortly before the expiry of the time limit so that she might be admitted to bail, as required by regulation 6 of the 1987 Regulations.

Mr Nicholas Blake, QC and Mr Tim Owen for the plaintiff; Mr Stephen Richards for the Home Office and the CPS.

**THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE** referred to the relevant statutory provisions set out at section 6(3) and (4) of the 1980 Act, section 2(1) and (3) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985, regulations 5 to 8 of the 1987 Regulations made by the secretary of state in exercise of his powers conferred by the 1985 Act and sections 1(6), 3(6) and 4 of the Bail Act 1976.

Their effect, summarised by Lord Justice Glidewell in *R v Maidstone Crown Court, Ex parte Clark* [1995] 1 WLR 831, 834, was that if a custody time limit, whether the 112 days or a period extended by the court, expired before arraignment in the crown court, the accused was automatically entitled to bail, the court's only powers thereafter being to impose conditions on its grant.

His Lordship summarised Mr Richards' submissions: that the governor's duty had been to obey the order of the court; that after committing the plaintiff was to be regarded as in the custody of the crown court; that under section 6(3)(a) of the 1980 Act and under the direction given to him in the warrant the governor's duty was to hold her in custody, to the crown court in due course of law; that he had not at any material time been called on to deliver her and could not lawfully take it on himself to release her.

Although the context was novel,

Mr Richards had further argued that in any event the plaintiff had no right to be released after 112 days; her right was to be released on bail by order of the court; although alerted by the terms of the warrant to the expiry date of the time limit the governor had no independent role in making any application to the court, nor any authority to release the plaintiff without an order of the court.

Mr Richards' submission was essentially correct. The plaintiff was in the custody of the crown court. Only by order of the court could that period of custody be brought to an end.

Once the time limit had expired the plaintiff was unlawfully detained and the order leading to its release could have been obtained either from the crown court or the Divisional Court. But it did not follow, in the absence of any such order, that the governor was guilty of falsely imprisoning her: he was neither entitled nor bound to release her.

With regard to the claim against the CPS, his Lordship said that regulation 6 of the 1987 Regulations made it clear that the CPS had to bring an accused person before the crown court shortly before expiry of the custody time limit and might be relieved of that duty only by direction of that court.

The regulation placed the onus for performance of the duty squarely on the CPS; it wholly failed to perform that duty, with the result that the plaintiff spent much longer in prison on remand than she should have done.

The issue was whether that statutory duty was a public law duty only or whether it gave rise to a private law right enforceable by a person injured by breach of the duty and so entitled to recover compensation.

Solicitors: Bobbets Mackin, Bristol; Treasury Solicitor.

It was a familiar question, the applicable principles, which were not in issue, being found in *R v Deputy Governor of Parkhurst Prison, Ex parte Hague* [1992] 1 AC 581 and *X (Minor) v Bedfordshire County Council* [1995] 2 AC 633.

The relevant provisions of the statute and the regulations had to be studied to determine whether Parliament and the secretary of state intended that anyone injured by failure of the CPS to perform its statutory duty should enjoy a private law right of action sounding in damages.

In seeking to understand the intention of Parliament and the secretary of state, regard had to be paid to the object and scope of the provisions, the class, if any, intended to be protected by them, and the means of redress open to a member of such a class if the statutory duty were not performed.

The object of the provisions was plainly to give a general measure of protection in the prosecution of criminal offences where defendants were remanded in custody to await trial, and if such expedition was lacking, to ensure that they did not languish in prison for excessive periods awaiting trial.

The protection of prospective defendants was thus an object of the provisions. When Parliament enacted section 22 of the 1985 Act it may have expected that custody time limits which the secretary of state was authorised to set by regulations would be realistic and achievable and accordingly would be achieved, if necessary being extended by order of the court.

It was the 1985 Act which was intended to be an efficient and highly professional prosecuting service. While the power conferred by section 22 on the secretary of state was expressed in broad terms, there was nothing to suggest that Parliament intended to give him power to create new private law rights of action.

Regulation 6 made it plain that it could not have been intended to confer a private law right of action for damages in the present circumstances. Support for that was to be found in *Eigusouli-Dafy Commission of Police of the Metropolis* [1995] QB 335.

His Lordship would accordingly conclude that the plaintiff's claim against the CPS should also be struck out.

The court was not in possession of the full facts and had accordingly to refrain from comment which might be unsound. It would, however, be of interest to note that it was the case that the plaintiff had through no fault of his own spent an excessive time in remand, and had no right to compensation for that injury.

It might be that there were parties other than the Home Office and the CPS from whom the plaintiff might be entitled to redress.

If not, and unless she was the author of her own misfortune, it would seem highly unjust if she were denied any compensation for what would on that hypothesis be an undoubted injury.

Lord Justice Mummery delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Auld agreed with both judgments.

Solicitors: Bobbets Mackin, Bristol; Treasury Solicitor.

Regulation 6 made it plain that

the duty of ensuring that a defendant did not spend longer in custody than permitted by any relevant custody time limit was laid on the CPS. It was no doubt assumed, as it was plainly intended, that the CPS would perform its duty.

If for any reason it did not, a defendant injured by its failure was doubtless expected to apply for release on bail at once, such application being assured of success. There was nothing in the 1985 Act or in the 1987 Regulations to suggest that either Parliament or the secretary of state foresaw the present unhappy conjunction of events.

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## Pedestrian use sufficient qualification as road

**Clarke v Kato and Others**

Before Lord Justice McCowan, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Potter  
Judgment November 29

The regular and incontrovertible use of a car park as a pedestrian route to a parade of shops was sufficient for the route to qualify as a road for the purposes of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and further consideration of whether or not use of the route by prams and bicycles amounted to vehicular use was unnecessary.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by the Motor Insurers' Bureau from Mr Assistant Recorder Goodchild at Great Grimsby County Court on July 20, 1995 where he determined that the car park was a preliminary part of the shopping precinct at Waitrose Road/Springfield Road, Grimsby, in which the respondent, Ellen Katie Clark, had been injured, was a road within section 192 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Pursuant to section 143 of the Act a policy of insurance was only compulsory when a vehicle was being used on a road. Thus the liability of the MIB to indemnify the respondent in respect of any judgment against Kato and Smith depended upon whether or not at the time of the accident the car park could properly be deemed a road.

Pursuant to section 143 of the Act a policy of insurance was only compulsory when a vehicle was being used on a road. Thus the liability of the MIB to indemnify the respondent in respect of any judgment against Kato and Smith depended upon whether or not at the time of the accident the car park could properly be deemed a road.

As far as the meaning of the word "highway" was concerned, its existence depended upon the establishment of a public right of passage whether on foot, on horseback or by vehicle, over the way concerned as a result of dedication or prescription.

However, the argument before the county court had turned entirely upon whether the car park was a road which the public has access to. The issue was narrower than that since it was accepted that the public had access to the car park. The question was simply whether or not the whole or part of the car park came within the definition or concept of a "road" at all.

The respondent, who had been walking through the car park on her way home, had been struck by a car driven by Paul Kato, who was not insured as driver or possessed of any covering insurance. He was with Jarrow Smith who had allowed him to drive the car. The respondent had brought an action against Kato, Smith and the MIB for personal injury and consequential loss.

Section 192 of the 1988 Act provides:

"(1) ... 'road' ... means any highway and any other road to which the public has access..."

Mr Howard Egan for the appellant; Miss Alison Hampton for the respondent.

The respondent, who had been walking through the car park on her way home, had been struck by a car driven by Paul Kato, who was not insured as driver or possessed of any covering insurance. He was with Jarrow Smith who had allowed him to drive the car. The respondent had brought an action against Kato, Smith and the MIB for personal injury and consequential loss.

Section 192 of the 1988 Act provides:

"(1) That the decisions in *Derwent Coachworks v Kirby* [1995] ICR 48 and *Clement-Clarke International Ltd v Manley* [1979] ICR 74 could not be accepted as good law and should not be followed.

2. That an excess redundancy payment should be taken into account at any other payment which the employee received after and as a result of his dismissal, such as moneys in lieu of notice, severance payments or gratuity payments made by the employer, whether payment was made on the ground of redundancy or not.

3. That there was no ring-fence for redundancy payments as stated in *Cox v Cox* which should not be followed on that point.

Accordingly, the original appeal in the present case had not been correctly decided. The employee was entitled to the higher award.

The appeal tribunal would review the decision and conclude that the employees' appeal should be dismissed and the order of the industrial tribunal affirmed.

Solicitors: Mr P. N. Baines, Reading; Free Representation Unit.

Regulation 6 made it plain that

LORD JUSTICE POTTER said that the car park was situated behind a parade of shops. There was a covered passageway from the car park to the middle of the parade.

The passageway and the ramp leading up to it were together designed for access by pedestrians, wheelchairs and perambulators.

They were not designed for, nor negotiable by cars although it was possible for cyclists to use them. The sole vehicular access to and from the car park was at the northeast corner from a short drive running from a public road. The entrance was effectively open at all times.

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# Increasing the agony

Problem pages are now making their way into the broadsheets

**A**sk journalists about the most popular items in their newspapers — the weather report, television listings, the crossword, the horoscope — and most of them would have no idea who edited them or how they get into the paper every day.

Another of the most popular items in any tabloid, as was demonstrated by the emotion shown by readers after the death of the *Daily Mirror's* Marje Proops, is the agony aunt — and Proops's successor as the doyenne of agony aunts is Deirdre Sanders, whose Dear Deirdre column appears daily at the back of *The Sun*.

Agony aunts are easy to mock. Yet macho journalists who think real journalism occurs only on the front pages would be humbled to learn the human tragedies agony aunts confront every day as they try to alleviate the miseries of life behind the closed doors — and not just the bedroom doors — of so many British homes.

Mrs Sanders, a trained counsellor, has a staff of nine, including five other trained counsellors. She gets about a thousand letters a day, mostly from women. All are answered within a week and urgent cases involving violence, child abuse, unwanted pregnancies or court actions are answered by return. Another thousand readers a



**PAPER ROUND**  
Brian MacArthur

day, mostly men, call *The Sun's* 0891 helpline.

It is a grueling life dealing with so much misery and Mrs Sanders admits that she herself sees a counsellor to offload the emotional burdens created by her work. One Christmas, for instance, she got a taped message from an out-of-work miner whose wife had divorced him and won custody of the children. The first weekend the children came to stay, he smothered them to death, taped his message, posted it, went home and shot himself. That reader was beyond help. Most are not. When a mother wrote anonymously to say she was going to kill herself and her seven-week-old baby, Mrs Sanders contacted the NSPCC and Parents Anonymous and put the number of Parents Anonymous in the paper for the mother to ring. At 5pm that afternoon she did and she and her baby were saved.

What Deirdre Sanders in *The Sun* and now Miriam Stoppard in the *Daily Mirror* offer is serious tabloid journalism — but misery is not confined only to readers of the mass-market tabloids. So editors of the broadsheets, as they search for a wider audience and in particular for more women readers, are increasingly experimenting with the introduction of agony aunts. Both *The Independent* (with Virginia Ironside) and *The Guardian* have problem pages, but it is *The Daily Telegraph* which has been causing waves.

When Mrs Proops died, *The Daily Telegraph* wrote a sardonically leading article posing as a letter to an agony aunt from heaven. "I wonder if I always did the right thing," wrote M. "I said they should change the laws to allow homosexuality, abortion and easier divorce. I said people should do what they really wanted and not worry about morality and religion and all that stuff... I reckoned it was better to fulfil yourself even if it sometimes meant other people getting hurt... from where I sit today, some of those old teachings don't look so stupid. So please can someone tell me, where did I go wrong?"

Within a month of her death, an agony column which counters the views that leader gently mocked in Dear Marje has

now been introduced in *The Daily Telegraph*. "Agony Atkins" was launched last week. It was an event which could easily have rendered some *Telegraph* readers apoplectic. So far the mailbag of problems has been very light. Mrs Atkins herself said there had been more letters of support than letters seeking her advice.

According to Mrs Atkins, there is a hunger for Christian common sense and she is offering a useful information service. But Claire Rayner, one of the most experienced agony aunts, accuses her of claiming the moral high ground but behaving immorally by offering help, yet refusing, unlike the tabloid agony aunts, to answer letters individually.

Experienced agony aunts and editors of women's magazines all share Polly Toynbee's warning against adopting too simplistic a view of human morality. "In the real world, 80 per cent of people support abortion; sex before marriage is the norm; and the idea of being locked into an indissoluble marriage with a partner you never had sex with is grotesque," Polly Toynbee said.

Could it be the case that the agony aunts of *The Sun* and the *Daily Mirror* are more serious and more in touch with the complex causes of human agony than Agony Atkins of *The Daily Telegraph*?

Another correspondent, returning

home early from a classical concert, found her husband trying on her underwear. She and her husband needed counselling, said Mrs Atkins, and advised a call to the Tavistock Clinic and a talk with a close girlfriend.

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practitioner capable of "hitting the floor running" by generating substantial extra business through cost-effective marketing and direct sales approaches at board-room level. Qualified to degree standard with a minimum of 5 years experience in sales management, preferably in FMCG, it is unlikely the postholder will have the appropriate maturity or abilities if aged under 35.

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# Changing world calls time on Cooke's tour

**A**lthough the reader who wrote me a "Watch out, sister" letter will not believe it, I am not a tooth-on-edge feminist who sits around waiting for fresh examples of man's inhumanity to women.

So indifferent am I to political correctness, I actually heard the "sexist" *Letter from America* without noticing that Alistair Cooke's beautifully modulated words could be taken to mean that he regarded rape as no more than boys-will-be-boys.

My husband and I thought that Cooke was talking generally about "wolf-whistling" in the American armed forces, and drove into the dark confident that if there were more broadcasters who sounded like that, all would be right with the radio world.

Because it would. People do know, don't they, that this 88-year-old performs this 50-year-old weekly Radio 4 miracle as if it were a live conversation? Cooke takes the trouble to go into a BBC studio in New York City, mount a stage, and speak his words from a lectern into a microphone, because he believes that is what broadcasting is about. He could pre-record the whole thing from his bath chair. But he doesn't. After these years of brilliance and grace under pressure, he does not deserve the humiliation of pre-censorship by the BBC because of his advanced age.

Nor do his listeners deserve having his spontaneity interrupted. But there must be no more *Letter from America* when Cooke packs it in. He may be ageless but his point of view is not.

"America" does not exist. It was a nebulous place when Columbus discovered it in the form of the island of San Salvador, even more so when John Donne discovered it in the body of his mistress. "My America, my New Found Land".

The "America" of Alistair Cooke is a 1940s concept, the name of the friendly giant cousin across the Atlantic who came to our aid during two world wars. The British weekly *The Economist* started its *American Survey* in January 1942 in swift and warm response to the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941. *The Economist* continues the American label on its much-read section, in spite of regular protests from the western hemisphere that Canadians, Argentinians and Mexicans deserve the adjective quite as much as those who salute the flag with hand on heart.

My idea of political incorrectness is calling the United States "America". This cosy shorthand can be indulged by a self-confident, narrowly aimed publication such as *The Economist*.

But the globalised, democratised BBC should give it up. *Wheeler on America*, Robert Hughes's *Made in America*: out, out. The options, I'll admit, are as ugly as most

politically correct phrasenology. "The Yew Es" is bad as a noun and worse as an adjective, while "the States" itself has a frosty, 1930sish sound. But the effort has to be made.

The use of a single nickname to cover such a mobile, unhomogenous continent-sized expanse as the United States has never been less apt. The new wave of immigration is turning the country from one which looked back at Motherland Europe into one which faces west and south, speaks a lot of Spanish and hasn't a clue what "special relationship" means.

Fussy? Tell that to a Scot or Welshman the next time you watch them hearing an American saying "you English". If it is not pedantic to try to explain to Americans that the United Kingdom is more complex than "England", it is not prissy to ask that "America" be dropped for "United States".

Anyway, the very idea that one man could encompass a country as big as the United States reeks of deckchairs and steamer rugs.

It implies a long expensive journey which a newspaper or broadcasting organisation can afford only one representative to make.

Journalism doesn't work that way any more. Major newspapers don't have "American" correspondents these days. They have correspondents in New York or Los Angeles or "US editors". Meanwhile, specialist reporters from HQ cross the planet, drop in on areas of interest, and are back in the office by Monday.

Besides, the Internet and communications are changing the world into communities defined by interests, not nationalities.

**W**henever the sorry day comes to say goodbye to *Letter from America*, we will perhaps recognise what has marked the programme's greatness. It is the offering of a seasoned personal view that takes in a great slice of history, that remembers the Great Depression and the Hollywood Ten and that knows what it is like to have drunk a daiquiri mixed by the hand of J.F.K. himself at Hyannis Port in sun, trustworthy judgment delivered in an incomparably intelligent and classics speaking voice.

One other essential ingredient in *Letter from America* which must be recognised is the link between the familiar and the strange. Other parts of the world now need this *Letter from...* treatment: India, China, South Africa. But not "America".

It is no longer a faraway place of which we long to know more — not these days when one of the penalties of having an American accent in London is having to hear the tale of every taxi driver's trip to Disneyland.

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## THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Blair pitches for the female vote



EAGER to counter recent research which found that women find him "smarmy" and too smiley, Tony Blair is to make a pitch for the female vote next week by appearing on Radio 4's influential *Woman's Hour*.

He is unlikely to get a smooth ride from his interviewer, Jenni Murray, however. Blair failed to make it into a list of "Top 50 Men of Our Times" in a poll of the programme's listeners. John Major, who guested on *Woman's Hour* last month, did make it onto the list, although it is impossible to say exactly how popular he is because the list had no rankings.

"Since we had already had the Prime Minister on, we decided to invite Mr Blair in the interest of political balance. It doesn't matter that he did not make it into the programme's Top 50 Men because he has very interesting things to say to women. At least that's what it says here," a *Woman's Hour* insider says.

How careless

TO LOSE one business editor, Mr Neil, may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose two looks like carelessness. There have been ructions at *Scotland on Sunday* where Andrew Neil has lost two of his top business

hacks. Rob Brown, who wrote a blistering critique of Neil's biography before discovering the combative former Editor of *The Sunday Times* was to become his new boss, has resigned to take up a job as media editor on *The Independent*.

His departure was swiftly followed by that of Simon Bain to the *Herald*. Bain, himself a former business editor of *Scotland on Sunday*, was elbowed aside by Brown for the top business job only three months ago. More departures are expected. Jim Seaton, the paper's Editor, who had planned to retire after the election, has decided firmly on February whether the country has gone to the polls or not.

Sweet revenge

MIFED about losing their head of development and

strategy, Paul Robinson, to rival commercial broadcaster Talk Radio earlier this year, bosses at BBC Radio have been plotting their revenge.

Robinson is one of 22 senior BBC executives who recently completed a grueling MBA course at Bradford University's Management Centre, courtesy of the BBC licence-payer. As he decided to defect to Talk Radio as general manager two weeks before the course ended, however, the corporation has banned him from a special celebratory graduation ceremony it is holding for the students in January. If he wants to attend, Robinson, who passed the MBA course with a distinction, has been told that he will have to refund to the BBC his £20,000 course fees.

Considering this a rather steep price to pay for a glass of

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11 1996

## Clarks to spin off factory outlets in shake-up

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

C&J CLARK, Britain's second-largest private company, is planning to spin off its fast-growing factory outlet operations as it seeks to refocus on its core shoe manufacturing and retailing business.

Two companies are understood to have approached Clarks about a whole or partial sale of its outlets in Street, Somerset, and Kendal in the Lake District. Coopers &

Lybrand has been appointed to sound out potential investors. An outright disposal could raise as much as £50 million, although Clarks is thought to favour a joint venture, with the longer-term aim of retaining the business.

Roger Peelder, chairman of Clarks, said: "We feel that to retain the whole factory outlets business is not a good option because we are a shoe company, and the factory outlets would always be competing for

capital and management resources." Mr Peelder said Clarks as a whole was still looking to float in about two years' time.

Shareholders in Clarks, which is 70 per cent family owned, have been informed of the plan and initial reactions have been positive. The business has been through a major shake-up since Tim Parker was brought in as chief executive from Kenwood Appliances in January. In July Clarks announced the closure of three factories and

1,400 job cuts, reducing the worldwide workforce to around 17,000. Mr Parker said at the time that the cuts were necessary to "address the poor performance of our footwear operations".

Flootation of Clarks, which had sales of more than £720 million last year, has been on the cards since family shareholders joined hands in 1993 over whether to accept a £184 million takeover bid from Berisford International. The offer was narrowly

rejected. Disposing of the factory outlets should help allay shareholders who have felt unhappy about the company's direction.

Companies thought likely to take an interest include RAM-Eurocentres, which is already in a 50-50 joint venture with Clarks in a Doncaster factory outlet. Others likely to figure are BAA-McArthur Glen, the Anglo-American factory outlet joint venture, as well as other operators in the sector, such as Freeport Leisure and Value Retail.

## Northern fights bid with merger

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NORTHERN ELECTRIC yesterday attempted to fend off the unwanted bid advances of CE Electric with plans to merge a large chunk of its business with another electricity company.

Northern will merge its electricity and gas supply operations — the parts that cover billing and customer service — with another company if the bid by CE Electric, the bid vehicle for the US grouping led by CalEnergy, fails. Northern, which says such a merger will deliver annual savings of £28 million, will not say with which company it is involved in advanced talks. Scottish Hydro-Electric and United Utilities have been tipped, although one of the other independent regional electricity companies, such as Southern or London, could emerge as the likely partner. Yorkshire Electricity yesterday ruled itself out of the running.

With less than two weeks remaining on the bid clock, Northern also unveiled plans to lift its dividend for the year to March 1998 by 17 per cent and thereafter increase it by 7 per cent. The company also intends further generation development in partnership with Rolls-Royce and expansion in upstream gas through joint venture.

More details of Northern's

strategy will be revealed today in information sent to shareholders.

Northern said that the interests of the two regional companies would be broadly equal. It said efficiencies would be won through maximising gas and electricity buying and integrating billing, customer service and administration.

The joint venture, subject to regulatory approval, would begin next year and would therefore be ready for the competitive market in domestic electricity due to begin in 1998. By that time, competition in household gas, which is already being phased in, would be nationwide.

Northern's defence comes after CE Electric raised its bid last week from 630p a share to 650p.

David Morris, Northern's chairman, said: "We can pay these higher dividends because of Northern Electric's strong financial position. Furthermore, the options available for our supply business — which conservatively we have not included in our projections — provide significant additional upside."

Northern's strategy was dismissed by CE Electric. David Sokol, chairman and chief executive, said: "Northern Electric's latest press release describes speculative claims."

CE Electric's final offer is real.

CE Electric, led by the junk-rated CalEnergy, said the dividend policy of Northern Electric increased the company's exposure to financial risk.

Northern's shares rose 6p to 611½p on the plans. Some industry watchers thought Northern's defence could be enough to secure its second successful battle against a hostile bidder.

A decision is imminent from Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, on the bid for Northern. He must make an announcement on whether the bid should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission by next Monday.

City fears over a referral

have depressed Northern's share price, which has continued to trade well below the first offer price from CE Electric.

Pennington, page 25

Channel 5 costs leap by £50m

By ERIC REGULY

THE shareholders of Channel 5 are to reveal next week that the broadcaster's launch costs have climbed by £50 million.

The extra funds will be spent on the effort to finish returning TVs and video machines in some 14 million homes to ensure that they can receive the channel without interference. Channel 5 is scheduled to make its debut on March 30, three months later than originally planned.

Channel 5's shareholders

Pearson and United News & Media, both of Britain; Warburg Pincus, the American investment bank; and CLT, the Luxembourg broadcaster — confirmed that the total returning costs will reach £150 million or more, up from the initial estimate of £60 million and the revised estimate of £100 million.

Pearson is expected to confirm the £150 million figure on Tuesday or Wednesday next week, when it is scheduled to release an end-of-year trading statement.

David Eistein, Channel 5's chief executive, said that about four million of the 14 million homes had been returned. Interference clears, page 27



Goal achieved: Guy Askham, Saints chairman, left, and Rupert Lowe did a reverse deal

## Takeover nets share quote for Saints

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

SOUTHAMPTON will become the latest football club to float next month when it completes a reverse takeover by Secure Retirement, a property development group, valuing the club at £10.1 million.

The Saints believe the listing will help in the relocation from The Dell, its present cramped ground, to a 30,000 capacity stadium on the city's edge, costing around £30 million and including shops, an athletics track and other facilities.

The float will enable Southampton to gain access to new financing while the club will receive an immediate £3 million boost of cash

from Secure Retirement's balance sheet.

Deals begin on December 24 and the new company will be valued at £48 million. Fans will have to pay almost £600 for a "sake" as the minimum shares that can be bought at the SSIP offer price is 100.

Rupert Lowe, chairman of Secure Retirement who will continue as chairman of the new Southampton Leisure Holdings, said: "We are aiming to create in Southampton a footballing force for the millennium and, in the new stadium, a focal point for the local community."

Freemans, owned by Sears,

is the second consumer group to sign up with Camelot's merchandising arm, National Lottery Enterprises. McCain Foods, the frozen chips manufacturer, will use the lottery name, logo and slogans on a range of promotions, starting on January 6. McCain intends to put miniature lottery balls inside bags of oven chips.

entitling customers to send off for free Lucky Dip lottery tickets.

Camelot has invited bids of at least £100,000 from up to 10 preferred partners, and has been inundated with offers since the bidding process started in March.

Freemans will pay an undisclosed marketing partnership fee in return for a two-year arrangement, beginning on January 1 and supported by extensive advertising. It will also pay Camelot for lottery tickets purchased, at a cost potentially running into millions of pounds.

## MacGregor joins board of Unigate

JOHN MACGREGOR, the former Cabinet minister, has joined the board of Unigate, the dairy products group, as a non-executive director.

The Conservative MP for South Norfolk is already on the board of Associated British Foods, the sugar and Ryvita manufacturer, and Slough Estates, the property company. Mr MacGregor worked alongside Ian Martin, chairman of Unigate, and Ross Buckland, chief executive, when he was Agriculture Minister from 1987 to 1989.

Mr MacGregor is the first Unigate non-executive director to have a background in politics.

## A&L cautious as members back change

By CAROLINE MERRELL

MEMBERS of the Alliance & Leicester Building Society have voted overwhelmingly for conversion. However, the board may still carry out its threat to delay the flotation because it fears proposals in the Building Societies Bill that could lead to an immediate takeover bid after flotation.

Around 70 per cent of the society's 2.4 million members voted and 96 per cent of saving members were in favour of the conversion as were 97 per cent of borrowers.

The society aims to float at the beginning of next year, but the Alliance & Leicester board has several misgivings about the Government's proposals to dilute the rule giving societies five years of protection from predators.

The society and its board, headed by Peter White, group chief executive, is keen to keep its independence.

One proposal which is of deep concern to the Alliance & Leicester board is that a shareholder with only 10 per cent of the capital of the newly floated society could force the five-year protection rule to be waived and launch a full bid. The Treasury says this proposal is still being discussed.

Another proposal says that a society waives its right to protection if it takes over other financial institutions. The Treasury is adamant that this clause will stay in the bill. A spokeswoman said: "If you become a shark, you have to play like a shark."

Speaking about the vote Mr White said: "We are pleased that so many of our investing and borrowing members participated in the voting process and that a clear majority of those members voted in favour of conversion."

If the flotation goes ahead, each qualifying member will get 250 shares worth in total £1,000. The price of the shares are expected to be between 385p and 435p, giving the company a market capitalisation of £2 billion.

This flat distribution of shares has antagonised members who have large balances with the society. The other societies, which are converting or have already converted, paid out shares according to the size of the balance.

These members have together formed the Alliance & Leicester action group. Some of them yesterday repeated their warning that they would withdraw £150 million from the society after its conversion.

Another proposal says

## Undermined

Shares in RJB Mining, Britain's largest coal producer, plunged from 485p to 372½p after BZW, the stockbroker, cut its profits forecast from £196 million to £185 million next year and its forecast for the following year from £232 million to £192 million. *Tempus*, page 26

## Building up

A change of Government would not halt the housing recovery, according to one leading housebuilder.

Page 28, *Tempus* 26

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Pennington, page 25

## Wax Lyrical lights the way to expansion

By CLARE STEWART

**WAX LYRICAL**, the privately owned high street candle retailer, has announced a management buy-in and revealed its burning ambition to double in size within three years.

Iain McGourty, currently managing director of Ernest Jones, the Siger-owned jewellery group, is to become the firm's managing director on January 1 and is acquiring a 10 per

cent stake. Wax Lyrical was set up in 1990 by two former management consultants Marjorie Bannister, 34, and Mark Chessel, 33, and has 32 shops. Both founders will retain a controlling stake of around 70 per cent although they will hand over executive management control.

"We realised we had reached a stage where we could see that a management more skilled in retail would be better for the company,"

said Mrs Bannister. She added that both she and Mr Chessel would remain "active non-executive directors" within the group.

Mr McGourty said the company planned to expand by opening between 8-12 new stores a year and look to overseas markets by appointing country franchisees. Immediate plans could be financed from company resources. A market flotation was a possibility. The company

reported sales of just under £11 million last year with operating profits of £1 million. It employs 300 staff.

The group says it has a 10-20 per cent share of the UK candle market, which is estimated to be worth £50-70 million. Within the shops candles, from decorated to scented, make up just over one quarter of sales while other products sold include table decorations, gifts and home fragrance.

As a specialist retailer, says Mr McGourty, Wax Lyrical has no direct competitor though department stores are significant candle sellers.

This Christmas Wax Lyrical will expect to sell around 35 million candles. Despite this seasonal rush, Britons are apparently near the bottom of the Euro-league for candle buying. Scandinavians buy the most while the Dutch buy ten times more candles than the British.

## Inquiry into directors of Facia 'necessary'

By JASON NISSE

**CHRISTOPHER HARRISON**, the former chairman of Facia, Stephen Hincliffe's collapsed retail empire, yesterday told creditors owed more than £100 million that the conduct of the directors should be investigated by its liquidators.

Mr Harrison chaired the Facia creditors' meeting in Leeds after Mr Hincliffe refused to attend on legal advice. The collapse of Facia in May is being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office.

Mr Harrison sat silently through the meeting. However, a statement from him was read out. It said: "The chairman refused to answer any questions as to the cause of the collapse of the Facia Group as this will be investigated by the liquidators. They will look at the conduct of the directors, which the chairman accepts as necessary, and the role of third parties."

Creditors, led by Sears, the retailer, which claims to be owed £30.1 million, appointed Malcolm Cohen and Peter Copp of BDO Stoy Hayward, the accountants, as liquidators in preference to Mr Hincliffe's choice, Brendan Guillioy of Geoffrey Martin and Company in Leeds.

Earlier Mr Hincliffe's solicitors, Peters and Peters, had put out a statement. This placed the blame for the collapse of Facia on third parties and called for an

investigation into the role of Sears, United Mizrahi Bank of Israel, which lent £7.4 million to Facia, and KPMG, the receivers appointed by United Mizrahi. "So far as Mr Hincliffe is concerned, the Facia Group need not have collapsed and could have and should have survived," the statement said.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr Cohen said that it was too early to say what he would be investigating but that he would look closely at any issue brought to his attention by creditors.

At the meeting it was revealed that, after paying off United Mizrahi, the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise, the Facia empire owes a total of £101 million. However, the total assets available to pay those debts may only be £3.06 million, leaving creditors with just 3p in the pound.

This is towards the lower end of the expectations of KPMG, the receivers, who had said there could be as much as 10p in the pound. KPMG has sent a report to the Department of Trade and Industry on Facia, which is believed to recommend the disqualification of Mr Hincliffe as a director. He and Mr Harrison are facing disqualification proceedings over the 1993 collapse of Boxgrey, a tennis court-maker.

Diary, page 27



Clear view: Eddie Boss, left and Robert Atkin, finance director, said Anglian has healthy orders for the second half

### Shake-up pays dividends at Anglian

INTERIM results at Anglian, the window builder, are showing the first signs of the new management team's strategy. Pre-tax profits are up from £4.5 million to £9.5 million in the six months to September 28 (Oliver August writes).

Earnings per share rose to 7.5p from 3.5p and the dividend rises 20 per cent to 3.0p.

Eddie Boss, chief executive since the start of the year, said commercial turnover rose 22 per cent to £19.5 million, reflecting the higher orders at the last year end but the market remained very competitive during the period.

## Carlton invests \$28.5m in Getty media enterprise

By ERIC REGULY

JULY AT \$10 a share and is controlled by Getty Investments, a holding company for the Getty family trusts.

Carlton bought 3.74 million new Getty shares at \$15.25 apiece and intends to double its Getty ownership to 20 per cent within two years. Michael Green, Carlton's chairman, is to join the Getty board.

Jonathan Klein, Getty's chief executive, said that the Carlton funds will be used to expand the company's library of visual material, ranging

from archival film footage to photojournalism collections.

Getty Communications has three divisions. Tony Stone Images specialises in contemporary stock photography. Hulton Getty owns the world's largest collection of archival photography, dating from the 1840s. And Fabulous Footage provides contemporary film footage.

In the nine months to the end of September, the company reported sales of \$63.5 million, up 41 per cent.

### Guardian Insurance to cut jobs

By MARIANNE CURPHY  
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

GUARDIAN INSURANCE is to shed 350 jobs in a major restructuring exercise following its acquisition of Legal & General's commercial insurance operation in July.

The proposed staffing reduction was immediately condemned by the Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu), which described it as "arbitrary cuts to please analysts and the stock market".

Guardian Insurance, the UK general insurance division of Guardian Royal Exchange, said it was restructuring its area and branch network.

It will close one office in each of seven towns where there is currently both a Guardian and a Legal & General office, plus offices in five other locations. The restructuring is expected to be complete by summer 1997.

Geff Linton, Bifu's chief negotiator with Guardian, said: "A tenth of all jobs will go. It is just a change for change's sake — it will not help customer service."

"Our suspicion is that the announcement of year-end job cuts is to meet an executive's performance target rather than to help the business run."

THE cost of buying a home will rise 20 per cent by the end of 1997, according to the TSB Housing Affordability Index.

Out of every £100 they earn, typical buyers will spend £30.70 on their mortgages, against £25.60 today, bringing to an end three years of steadily improving affordability. In 1996 average affordability fell 10 per cent and was at its best since 1978. House purchase was at its most expensive in 1991, when buyers were forced to pay £71.30 of every £100 earned.

The rise in the new year will be the result of higher mortgage rates and stronger house prices. According to the TSB, the figures take into account the potential impact of a Labour election victory on rates, prices and earnings.

In 1996 prices in some areas, such as London, have risen by as much as 10.1 per cent, and by an average of 7 per cent nationwide. In 1997, the Halifax Building Society predicts that prices will climb a further 7 per cent. Some economists believe the figure could be closer to 10 per cent.

The TSB anticipates that mortgage payments will rise by 25 per cent, with rates hitting 8.25 per cent.

### Cost of homes to 'rise 20%

By ANNE ASHWORTH

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### Celltech transformed

CELLTECH, the biotechnology company, said the launch of its two most advanced products in 1998 will help to transform it into a profitable pharmaceuticals group. The products, sepiatection treatments developed with Bayer, will be submitted for worldwide registration next year. Celltech reported operating losses of £10.6 million in the year to September 30 against a £7.1 million loss. The £50 million sale of its manufacturing arm raised pre-tax profits to £3 million (£5.4 million loss).

NURSING HOME DEAL

J SAINSBURY hopes to resolve its long-running dispute with Ladbrokes over the price of Texas Homecare by early in the new year. Sainsbury paid £90 million for Texas in January 1995 but agreement on the final price has been held up by a disagreement over net assets. The amount at the centre of the row is about £60 million. Its resolution has also been delayed because the auditors, Price Waterhouse, have been reporting on the problems at Wickes, the fellow DIY retailer.

### Texas settlement near

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THE French Government is to unveil new terms for the privatisation of Thomson, the electronics group whose sale was suspended last week. Reuters reported that official sources said the Government intended to announce new terms before the end of the week. The sale to Lagardere, the Government's preferred bidder, fell apart when the Privatisation Commission objected to the sale of the loss-making Thomson Multimedia arm to Daewoo Electronics, the Korean group.

Former Barings executive settles with SFA

MARY WALZ, one of the Barings executives responsible for supervising Nick Leeson, the rogue trader, will be able to work again in the City after the Securities and Futures Authority agreed not to proceed with charges against her.

Ms Walz is understood to have agreed to pay part of the regulator's costs and given some acknowledgement of her responsibility for the actions of Leeson, who ran up losses of £530 million and brought about the collapse of Barings.

As the former global head

of equity financial products, Ms Walz worked for Ron Baker, the former head of derivatives, who last month escaped a ban from working in the City again. Mr Baker had taken the regulator to a tribunal at which he was reprimanded and ordered to pay costs of £5,000.

Ms Walz, who last week

heard that she had lost her claim for a £500,000 bonus promised by Barings hours before its collapse, had planned to take her case to a tribunal but that will not now take place.

Ms Walz can now apply to work again in the City but would need to apply to rejoin the SFA register and would be vetted in the normal way by the regulator.

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## Walz gets City clearance

By LINDSEY COOK

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France Fr 8.08 Bank Total 8.45

Germany Dm 2.27 Bank Total 2.21

Greece Dr 4.21 Bank Total 3.98

Hong Kong S 13.40 Bank Total 12.40

Iceland Isk 12.00 Bank Total 10.00

Ireland Ir 1.07 Bank Total 0.87

Italy Lira 252.90 Bank Total 248.50

Japan Yen 120.50 Bank Total 118.50

Korea Wn 0.97 Bank Total 0.92

Netherlands Gld 3.025 Bank Total 2.790

New Zealand S 2.48 Bank Total 2.25

Norway N 1.05 Bank Total 1.02

Portugal P 270.50 Bank Total 252.00

Spain Pa 8.31 Bank Total 7.51

Sweden S 2

□ Northern's devotion to shareholder value deserves backing □ Freemans frequent-flyer flutter □ Saints alive to big time

□ CITY greed, political meddling and erratic regulation are fast converting Britain's utilities from the steady, wholesome, provincial life to a roller-coaster metropolitan lifestyle of high excitement and even higher risk.

In Northern Electric's case, City temptations started things off. In order to fend off a hostile takeover bid from Trafalgar House — and what a lucky escape that was — Northern conducted what seemed a scorched earth defence. It promised to hand over so much cash and near-cash to its shareholders, while handing its business to the hilt, that the wider world realised regional electricity companies were rolling in it. From this Labour's utility levy was born to unlikely respectability.

On the supposed scorched earth, Northern has cultivated another fertile orchard of fruit to offer its shareholders in an attempt to persuade them to stick with the board, rather than accept a second unwanted bid from an equally unattractive source. This one has come from CE Electric, an unprepossessing consortium led by CalEnergy.

A 17 per cent hike in dividend proffered for next year would give Northern shares a prospective yield of 10.2 per cent at

yesterday's prices, and 9.6 per cent at CE's increased offer of 650p per share. Such returns imply extremely high risks. Apart from the unknown levy, there is domestic competition, further price control and highly-geared normal risks of trade.

However, these risks would surely not justify such a lowly rating if the City did not take an even more short-term view. The consortium is in pole position with nearly a third of Northern's equity on the side. Given the Government's sudden, belated averting to utility bids ahead of the election, traders are being ultra-cautious, waiting to see if the President of the Board of Trade settles the affair to the monopoly authorities by Monday.

That combination undermines Northern's argument that it is undervalued. Yet the company has a strong call on the support of its shareholders. Few have been so dedicated to delivering value to investors. The board has kept its promises and justified the financial risks it took. The

proposed joint venture with another REC such as London Electricity, though not in the bag, shows there is still scope to cut costs. Northern's approach to new markets opened by competition is as bright as any.

That gives some confidence that the board will continue to pull out plums, not least to sustain real dividend growth after the next review of its regulated business. If shareholders spurn such assiduity, many more boards will surely opt for the quiet life.

#### Home shopping lottery

□ RUN FOR your life. Like a rampaging monster from some Fifties' sci-fi epic, the National Lottery is taking over the nation. Soon you won't be able to open the larder without a lottery voucher fluttering out. And any day now, that quiet woman from down the road will be hammering on the front door, eager to

flog you knickers, skirts and everything else in the bulging Freemans catalogue.

Not inertia selling, you understand, but a customer incentive scheme — a frequent-flyer programme for home shoppers. That is how Oflot, the lottery regulator, describes Camelot's latest tie-up in which one million Freemans agents stand to get their hands on dozens of free lottery vouchers. Freemans flyers branded with the Camelot logo will come fluttering through letter boxes in the new year in their thousands, but this is not inertia selling. No one is forcing anyone to swap their vouchers

for lottery tickets. They can always take their £1 commission instead.

Freemans, which follows McCain Foods in signing up as Camelot's second official partner (another eight may follow), is nevertheless out to milk the connection for all it is worth. Its flyer to agents leaves one in no doubt, starting: "What would you do if you won the National Lottery? Buy a diamond ring. Or maybe a sports car. Go on a world cruise, perhaps. Or even buy your own tropical island." All a far cry from braying round the estate with a Freemans catalogue tucked under your arm.

And what of Camelot? Its merchandising arm, National Lottery Enterprises, has been a low-key affair so far, contributing less than £300,000 to Good Causes in the year to end-March, but all that could be about to change. A clutch of lucrative marketing agreements could be just what Camelot needs to shore up its profits. It keeps 50 per cent

relating to activity on the pitch. When Southampton and Sunderland join the market in the next few weeks there will be a total of 10 quoted clubs with a combined market capitalisation of £850 million. The arrival of Aston Villa, Newcastle United and Sheffield United shortly will take the total above the £1 billion mark, even though Deloitte Touche calculates that the turnover for the whole game in 1994-95 — the last year for which accounts are available — was only £470 million.

As Keith Wiseman, vice-chairman of Southampton and chairman of the Football Association, says, flotation is becoming a way for the medium-sized clubs to stay in the same game as the big six. Southampton and Sunderland share a similar sized fan base, modest historical success and perilous current positions in the Premiership. But while Southampton has chosen to come to the market valued at £101 million — less than those Endsleigh League giants Millwall and Preston North End — Sunderland's float values the club at £48 million. One set of red-and-white fans is destined to be mightily disappointed by their club's arrival in the financial big time.

## Shining in the bright lights

PENNINGTON



## Costain chiefs to go as US Coal deal is sealed

BY OLIVER AUGUST

COSTAIN, the embattled construction company, is clearing the decks with the departure of the chairman and the chief executive after the sale of its US Coal business to Rencos of America for \$28 million.

Alan Lovell, the chief executive, will resign as soon as a successor has been found in a surprise move that follows months of personal attacks on Mr Lovell for his handling of Costain's financial problems.

He said: "It is the right time for me to leave, now that the restructuring is completed. In an ideal world a construction company should be run by an engineer. I am a mere accountant."

Mr Lovell said that one of

the company's largest shareholders, the Kharafi investors from the Middle East, had not been very supportive towards him. He expects the search for a successor to last between four and six months.

Sir Christopher Benson, the chairman, will also leave the company, to be replaced on January 1 by Dr Azman Firdaus bin Shafii, a member of the Intra group, which rescued Costain from financial difficulties last summer.

Dr Azman, a joint deputy chairman, came face to face with shareholders at the last extraordinary meeting three months ago, where he was prevented from giving a presentation by protesters against

the Newbury bypass, which Costain is building.

Mr Lovell said of Dr Azman: "He is a very impressive individual. Sir Christopher had said in July that he would step down by next May.

Dr Azman's appointment shows the total commitment Intra brings to Costain."

The disposal of US Coal had been expected since last July when Lonrho scuppered a deal at the last minute. The deal with Rencos includes \$8 million of capitalised finance lease obligations. Rencos is a private group with metal manufacturing and trading interests in America.

Mr Lovell said Rencos will assume certain long-term li-

abilities. "This is less cash than the Lonrho deal but it is also a different sort of deal. We had been looking to sell the business for a few years. It is a high risk area and not suitable for us."

Costain now says it expects additional losses of £1 million from US Coal, as well as £4 million extra losses from three projects in the Middle East which were managed badly or undertaken.

Costain is also selling its one-third interest in the Spinfields development site to Metacorp, a Malaysian public company, which is 23 per cent owned by Intra, which itself has a 40 per cent stake in Costain.

## Compass will be plotting steady course

COMPASS GROUP, the catering company, is to embark on a period of organic growth and consolidation following its recent acquisition spree (Alasdair Murray writes).

Francis Mackay, chief executive, said the company, which spent £590 million to acquire Eurest International, would continue to look for suitable bolt-on acquisitions but was not intending to make any major purchases this year.

Compass yesterday unveiled a 56 per cent increase in full-year profits before tax and exceptional, to £114 million. The total dividend was increased 13 per cent to 86p. A final dividend of 53.8p is payable on March 27. *Tempus*, page 26

## RJB shares fall 23% on circular

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in RJB Mining, Britain's largest coal producer, plunged yesterday after a sharp profits downgrade from the company's own broker.

BZW provided the financial backing for RJB's purchase of the English and Welsh collieries midway through a ballot on industrial action.

BZW lowered its profits forecasts because of the increased threat of cheap coal imports and its revised figures sent shock waves through the stockmarket.

RJB saw 23 per cent wiped from its market value after BZW knocked next year's forecast from £196 million to £185.3 million and predicted much lower figures for the following year, reducing its 1997 forecast from £232 million to £192 million.

Earnings per share forecasts for 1997 and 1998 were cut by 19 per cent and 20 per cent respectively. The share

price fell from 485p to 372½p. The company also faces the threat of strike action with the National Union of Mineworkers midway through a ballot on industrial action.

BZW lowered its profits forecasts because of the increased threat of cheap coal imports and because of output problems at Ashford Colliery. Coal imports, in common with other imported goods, have become cheaper through the increased strength in sterling.

RJB has contracts with the main generators for coal sales which run until 1998. But it has to compete with cheaper imports of coal for other sales to electricity generators and to users of industrial coal.

*Tempus*, page 26

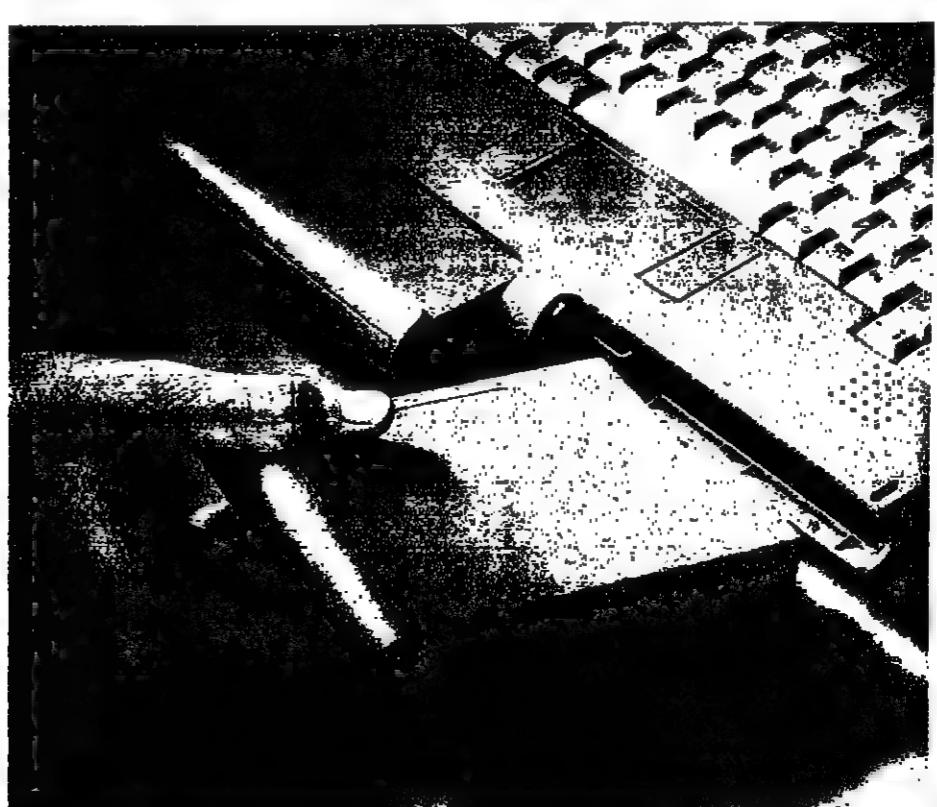
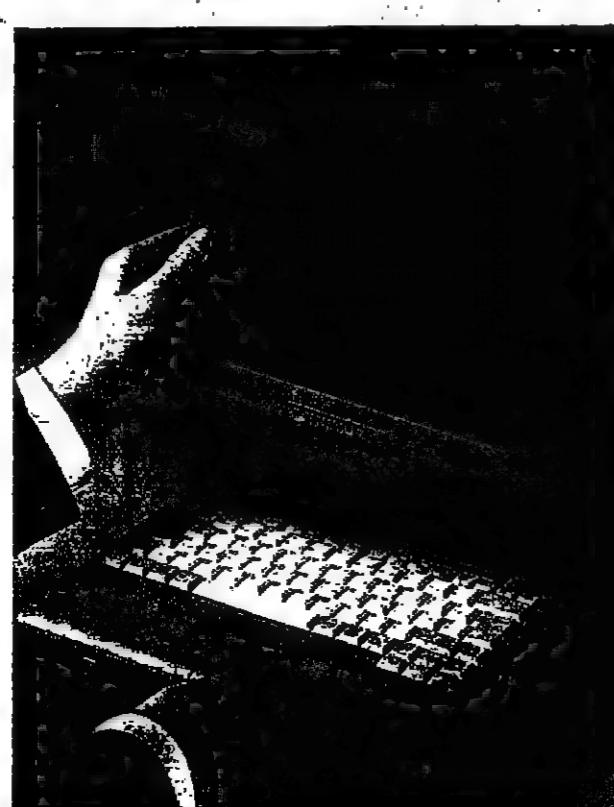
## Yorkshire lights up interim

YORKSHIRE Electricity has lifted its dividend 33 per cent, spending £25.1 million on half-year payments to its shareholders (Christine Buckley writes).

The interim, payable on March 25, was set at 15.8p. Yorkshire had signalled its move earlier this year amid analysts' predictions that cash would be handed back to utility shareholders to bleed funds before a Labour Government's windfall tax. But Malcolm Chatwin, chief executive, denied that was the intention.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to the end of September fell 27 per cent to £80.8 million as the last distribution price review bit. *Tempus*, page 26

SIEMENS  
NIXDORF



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PC Magazine Dec 1995



Siemens Nixdorf: User Centred Computing

STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

## Two big names prepare to tumble from top 100

TWO constituents of the FTSE 100 Index, Courtaulds and Pilkington, are expected to lose their places when the index acquires meet today for their quarterly review.

Confirmation that both companies have been booted out after a period of underperformance could result in further weakness for the shares in the days ahead. Courtaulds ended the session 31p down at a new low of 384p, while Pilkington slipped 2p to a fresh low of 148p in a rising market.

It is expected that they will be replaced in the Index by Hays, the fast growing logistics group, 2p firmer at a year's high of 542p, and Mercury Asset Management, the City's biggest fund manager. Mercury ended the session 2p dearer at £12.38p, just 91p shy of its peak.

Promotion to the top 100 companies not only brings with it increased prestige, but also attracts the attention of the index-tracking funds. They are likely to increase their weightings in both stocks, providing a further boost.

The rest of the equity market continued to be squeezed higher although prices did close below their best of the day. Stock shortages, especially among blue chips, exacerbated the situation for market-makers. By the close a total of 860 million shares had changed hands, a significant improvement on Monday.

Once again London took its lead from a strong performance by Wall Street overnight that saw the Dow Jones industrial average soar around 80 points. The Dow was continuing to make headway in early trading last night but the FTSE 100 index saw its lead cut to 24.1 at 4,035.7 by the close as investors looked cautiously towards today's monthly meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England.

BAT Industries continues to go from strength to strength with the price adding 11p at 488p as speculation about the demerger of its financial services arm gathers pace. Only last week there was talk that bid talks with Commercial Union, up 31p at 668p, had broken down.

FJK put on 61p at 206p as Merrill Lynch tipped the stock as one of its top ten buys for 1997. British Barnes also stood out with a jump of 18p at 651p as Cazenove, the bro-



Francis Mackay and Roger Matthews of Compass, up 10p

ker, came out with some positive comments. Glynnwood International put on 1p at 336p as SBC Warburg moved from a "hold" to a "buy". A savage profits downgrade by its own broker, BZW, left RJB Mining nursing a fall of 112p to close at a low for the year of 372p. BZW has reduced its forecast for the current year by 5.2

Keep an eye on Somerfield, the supermarket chain, one of the few companies to trade higher on Friday and which rose a further 71p to 162p yesterday as 3.64 million shares were traded. There is again talk of possible consolidation among the food retailers with Somerfield tipped as a bid target.

million to £185.3 million. For 1997 it has wiped a massive £40 million from its estimate of £232 million, leaving a figure of £192 million.

A strong increase in half-year profits lifted British Land 10p to 497p, while Berkeley Group, the housebuilder, responded to the news that reservations are up by 25 per cent on the previous year with a rise of 21p

Laing, 51p to 277p, and Westbury, 61p to 231p.

Half-year figures helped

Compass, whose chief executive is Francis Mackay and finance director is Roger Matthews, to finish 10p higher at 627p after confirming a strong surge in profits last year as the benefits of recent acquisitions started to be felt. The group remains bullish about the current year and has hedged

short-dated coupons.

In the first of the March series

of the long gilt put on 110p at 110p as the total number of contracts dropped to 42,000.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was 111p better at 1103½, while Treasury 8 per cent rose £140 to 1103½.

**■ NEW YORK:** On Wall Street shares extended Monday's rally in heavy morning trade, with the technology sector showing strength. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 33.17 points higher at 6,497.11.

RJB MINING: SHARES LOSE PROP AS OWN BROKER CUTS FORECAST

Source: Delisted

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Closing Prices Page 29

its position against a strong pound with 75 per cent of profits earned overseas.

A big rise in the payout and the promise of a further enhancement of shareholder value failed to offset the expected dip in half year profits at Yorkshire Electricity, down 6p to 755p.

Chubb Security failed to make much of an impression on brokers after announcing its figures, with the shares falling 9p to 321p.

Celltech perked up 10p at 510p with the group confirming that it is on target to make a profit in 1998. The group said its septic shock drug SAYX-151 was nearing the end of Phase 3 trials.

Colt Telecom got off to an

encouraging start in first-time dealings on a when-issued basis. The 26.7 million shares were offered at 275p, or \$18.10 per American Depository Share, equivalent to four shares. They opened at 300p and touched 311p before closing at 307p, a premium of 34p.

Parkwood Holdings, the facilities management specialist, made a positive public debut after a placing by Wise Speke, the broker, at 65p. The shares ended the session at 75½p, a premium of 10½p.

BBB Design climbed 16½p to 461p as Neville Bush selected his next investment vehicle. The man who built up Blenheim, recently acquired by United News & Media, has bought a 6 per cent stake in BBB and is to become non-executive chairman. He plans to build his holding up to almost 30 per cent.

**■ GILT-EDGED:** Another wave of overseas buying ahead of the European Union summit in Dublin this weekend drove bonds sharply higher again. Brokers reported switching out of other European bond markets into London with the longer end of the market outperforming shorter-dated coupons.

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Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Closing Prices Page 29

**FTSE 100: INDEX (rebased)**

RJB MINING: SHARES LOSE PROP AS OWN BROKER CUTS FORECAST

Source: Delisted

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Closing Prices Page 29

**COMMODITIES**

**Liffe**

**ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)**

**CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)**

Brent Physical ... 23.90 -0.45

Brent 15 days (Ant) ... 23.60 -0.35

Brent 15 days (Avg) ... 23.60 -0.45

WTI Texas Intermediate (Feb) ... 24.30 -0.35

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THE  
TIMES  
  
CITY  
DIARY

**Back on the milk round**

SOUNDS of ministerial back-scratching from Unigate, which yesterday appointed the Rt Hon John MacGregor as non-executive director. The Conservative MP for Norfolk South first met Ian Martin, Unigate's chairman, and Ross Buckland, chief executive, during his time as Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food from 1987-89.

Unigate makes the whipped cream of the suggestion that MacGregor's position on the board of Associated British Foods will lead to conflict. An erudite conjurer, and member of the Magic Circle, who knows what tricks MacGregor has up his sleeve.

**Sinking feeling**

CHRIS HARRISON chose a fitting venue for yesterday's creditor's meeting of Facia in Leeds. There to discuss future plans for the collapsed retailing group, the director was centre stage of the Ark Royal Suite in the plush Queen's Hotel. Just visible over Harrison's right shoulder was a telling headline from *The Yorkshire Evening Post*: "The Day the Ark Royal Sank."

**Lord somewhere**

A CHRISTMAS gift for the hardworking City type with aristocratic pretensions... Viscount Mountgarret, former president of Yorkshire Cricket Club, expects to make between £5,000 and £7,000 today from the sale at Stationers' Hall of the ancient title of the Lord of the Manor of Stanbury. Mountgarret, best known for shooting at a hot-air balloon flying over his grouse moor in the 1980s, is coy about his reasons for selling the title, which came into his family through marriage in 1894. "Why do you buy an ice cream? How long is a piece of string?" was his quick retort when asked why, adding that he didn't even know where the village was.



"Never mind their score, what's the share price?"

**Blossoming out**

A RATHER risqué invitation from Medical Insurance Agency to the launch of its new dental plan; a picture of Marilyn Monroe, whose outfit reveals a bite more than her pearly white teeth. The inspiration? Marilyn Orchard, the new general manager of Medical Insurance Agency's Clinical Division, and the Scottish founder of Demain, which she went on to sell for £1 million. Orchard boasts that constantly being called Marilyn Monroe as a child turned her into a wallflower. How things have changed.

**Canary duo**

KNIGHT FRANK and Richard Ellis will take over from Jones Lang Wootton, whose contract expires at the end of this year, as joint agents, responsible for leasing office space at Canary Wharf. About 80 per cent of the 4.5 million sq ft completed is let, with a population of 15,000 rising to 19,000 during 1997 when BWZ and Reader's Digest Association relocate to Europe's largest office tower.

MORAG PRESTON

MORAG PRESTON

# Phoenix's 'baaad man' ready to fight for his resurrection

Craig Lord meets  
Charles Keating Jr,  
anti-hero of the  
1980s US savings  
and loans scandal



Charles Keating Jr, top, and Judge Lance Ito who conducted his trial

towards the grid network of comfortable homes trimmed with evergreen lawns across Phoenix, he says: "As a large housing contractor we were very successful, and housing has now been very profitable. If you don't take some risks then you won't make money." He cites the Phoenixian, which grossed more than \$100 million this year.

There was also the 20 per cent share of Sir James Goldsmith's GOIL (Gen-

eral Oriental Investments Limited). One of the assets was in Newmont Mining. "We had 20 per cent of Jimmy's 50 per cent in Newmont Mining and Newmont Gold," said Keating. He cites a Phoenix land inventory worth \$800 million in April 1989 before federal seizure. "That land has gone through the ceiling and junk bonds are gold," he says.

Without necessarily agreeing with

Keating in an interview with *The Times* in which he broke a five-year media silence, is something that may be impossible to reverse. "Everybody hates rich people." A somewhat surreal assertion from a pensioner who claims to be all but broke and whose manner is far from that of an arrogant corporate despot.

But then Keating was recalling wealthier times when he would think nothing of flying his extended family to Europe to choose a chef for the Phoenixian. lend his private jet to Mother Teresa, to whom he was a generous donor, and when his Catholic creed was held alongside a more combative corporate one—"a man can do no wrong if he always rides to the sound of the guns," stated the bronze plaque in his office.

Keating was convicted of looting the federally-insured deposits of Lincoln by booking false profits on sham land and securities transactions; many of those involving the issue of "risky" junk bonds, while fooling auditors and investors about the failing health of Lincoln and ACC. In the midst of the crisis ACC bonds were issued through Lincoln branches to help with cashflow problems caused by a fall in real estate prices and exacerbated by the costs, running to more than \$26 million, of the 13-month investigation into Lincoln.

Keating says the use of the word "risky" is ridiculous. Sweeping his hands

each of them rigorously checked for everything from bad manners to criminal records, has been mobilised and roughly four million of the 14 million homes in the channel's broadcasting areas have been returned. The pace—about 400,000 homes a week at the moment—will pick up in January, when another 2,000 returnees are to be recruited.

Channel 5 expects to finish returning by late February or early March, giving it several weeks to rid the system of transmission glitches before regular broadcasts begin. A change in strategy has allowed the returnees to work more efficiently. Some bright engineers discovered that many homes in the channel's broadcast areas are immune to interference. To determine which ones, they simply conduct test transmission and wait for the switchboard to light up with calls from complainers. The returnees visit the homes with interference problems and the rest are ignored.

"We learned that we had

been returning far too many homes," said Mr Elstein. "By making appointments and returning only the homes that need it, we are increasing our safety margin."

The returning blitz has come cheaply. Channel 5's owners initially expected to spend about £60 million on returning.

Virtually all of the programming is in place for the first year—all it needs now is viewers

Some bidders for the Channel 5 franchise, including BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster 40 per cent owned by News International, publisher of *The Times*, believed the figure to be laughably low. Pearson later admitted that the bill would climb to about £100 million. The latest estimate is about £150 million. The higher figure partly re-

flects the extra homes in the channel's broadcast area. The number went from ten million to 14 million in September, when the Government awarded Channel 5 an extra broadcast frequency.

The shareholders expect to recoup the extra returning costs by delivering a larger audience to advertisers. But they still expect the channel to break even sometime in 1999.

With the returning largely under control, Mr Elstein is spending more time on ensuring that the programming schedule is in place. In October he signed a \$10 million deal with Columbia Tristar, the Hollywood studio, for 144 releases ranging from TV film premieres to mini-series.

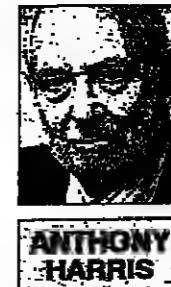
Two weeks ago, it signed

another deal with 20th Century Fox, the studio owned by The News Corporation. The price was not disclosed, but it is thought to have been about \$40 million. In exchange, Channel 5 received the British terrestrial rights to the studio's recent box-office hits, including *Independence Day*. *Mrs Doubtfire*

and *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*. Those contracts alone appear to have eaten up almost half of Channel 5's relatively tiny £100 million programming budget, but more money has magically appeared. Mr Elstein entered the bidding for *ER* and *Friends*, the enormously popular Warner Bros programmes, when the British rights, held by Channel 4, came up for renewal. Channel 5, in partnership with BSkyB, is thought to have bid \$90 million or so but was trumped by a \$100 million offer from Channel 4.

Mr Elstein said the shareholders would have stumped up the funds because of the advertising revenue the programmes could have generated.

Nevertheless, virtually all of Channel 5's programming is in place for the first year. All it needs now is viewers. Mr Elstein thinks the market's forecast of a market share between 5 and 7 per cent is realistic. He said: "This will not be a crisis Christmas for me. I think we're in good shape."



ANTHONY  
HARRIS

## Why Greenspan's pension warning includes you

Despite his awe in-

spiring success,

there are still some

Americans, and even some

on Wall Street, who are

sceptical about Federal Re-

serve chairman Alan Green-

span. Is he the wisest of

central bankers, or just the

luckiest? Or to put it more

directly, does even he know

how he does it? The doubt-

ers, led by the surviving

monetaryists, had their worst

fears confirmed a couple of

weeks ago when the Fed

went public on the equations

which make up its model of

the economy. As they sus-

pected all along, the Fed has

no views at all about the

money supply. A staffer

suspected: "There is a money

demand equation but it

doesn't do anything."

To the believers, this is

like the Pope admitting he is

an atheist. The Fed runs the

money supply, but doesn't

believe that the money sup-

ply matters: so if it was

honest, it ought to shut up

shop. To a non-monetaryist like myself, of course, the

Fed's confession shows just

the opposite that the Fed is

wise enough to know that

monetary policy matters, but

cannot be judged simply on

an arbitrary statistic. It re-

quires understanding of a

whole range of real and

psychological factors, far too

complicated to be captured

in one simple number. But

the case for pragmatism

cannot be stated as snappily,

as the monetarist creed: so

as long as the monetarists

are around, there will still be

bond market vigilantes

ready to turn a statistic into

a panic.

The theory is supported by the fact

that this case was not treated as a

white-collar crime. Keating was

described by prosecutors as a trophy

prisoner and incarcerated alongside

"drug barons and IRA terrorists con-

victed of attempting to export weapons

to Britain — some real rough cookie".

It was certainly not the kind of world

Keating was used to. He donated

millions of dollars every year, mainly

to Catholic causes for the sick and home-

less, and was a fearsome anti-

pornography campaigner. He also

sponsored thousands of children from

New York ghettos through the De La

Salle Academy, and two vast swim-

ming programmes that gave scholar-

ships to hundreds of talented but

impoverished youngsters.

While Keating appears to harbour

no grudge, he is clearly angry that

assets were sold by liquidators at

"bargain-basement" prices. For exam-

ple, Kuwaiti investors were said to

have bought the Phoenixian for about

25 per cent of its true market value.

"They just came along and took

everything I had," said the man who

paid for his college education and

graduation as an attorney by cleaning

sewers at night. "But I'm gonna try and

do it all over again."

Whether there will be another trial

will be decided in court on January 16.

FBI investigators have already begun

the task of rounding up prosecution

witnesses from the first trial. Stephen

Neal, Keating's lawyer, is confident of

a different result. He intends to call

defence witnesses who would not come

forward at the first trial because the

judge refused to grant immunity, even

though prosecution witnesses such as

July Wischer, former president of

ACC, testified under a plea agreement

and so avoided prison.

Keating is sanguine. "I hope there

isn't another trial. But I'll face whatever comes. You gotta be somewhere."

Sage aims to copy success in France

By FRASER NELSON

SAGE, the business software company, is looking to make a major acquisition in either Germany or the US after the success of its newly acquired subsidiary in France.

The company said yesterday that it was prepared to spend about £50 million and would be targeting the higher end of the accountancy software market where packages cost above £600.

Its French subsidiary, which made little or no profit when they were bought, made £9 million in the year to September 30 — more than double the £4.3 million they generated last time.

Paul Walker, chief executive, said they had managed to avoid the downturn in the French economy by greatly expanding the aftersales service, offering upgrades and technical support.

He added that their turnaround had given the company confidence it could achieve the same results in Germany. In the US the upside potential was more limited.

He said: "We have a business model which seems to work exceptionally well in France, and there is no reason why it could not do so elsewhere."

The more profitable French business, now employs 32,000 technical support staff against the 2,000 it had when Sage bought it for £5 million four years ago. As a group, Sage now services 190,000 technical support contracts, against 150,000 last time, and has seen a 65 per cent renewal rate from its customers.

With steady growth from UK sales and a more modest improvement in the US, pre-tax profits stood at £30.1 million (£22.4 million) over the period, taking earnings to 18.5p per share (13.9p). A final dividend of 1.76p, due February 28, leaves a year total of 2.54p (2.4p).

Tempus, page 26

# Booming Berkeley sure it can build on success

By FRASER NELSON

A CHANGE of government would not halt the recovery in the housing market, according to Berkeley, the housebuilder that yesterday reported record half-year profits. The company, which correctly predicted the house market's collapse in 1989 by putting its assets into cash, said it saw no danger from a Labour Government. It said the election itself would cause more uncertainty than its result.

Graham Roper, chairman, said: "We have met Nick Raynsford, the Shadow Housing Minister, and we think he is very sensible and pragmatic and would not harm the private housing sector."

In the six months to October 31, the company returned pre-tax profits of £30.1 million — an increase of 58 per cent. Tony Pidgley, chief executive, said he was confident that the recovery should continue while suffering a decline during political uncertainty. He said: "We are in a cyclical business. It has had seven years in recession and, in my opinion, we are only 18 months coming out of it."

To avoid pre-election jitters, the company followed a strategy of forward selling in the six months to September 30, selling houses on a development before others were complete. Forward sales rose to £330 million compared with £230 million.

Berkeley concentrates on properties with an average



Tony Pidgley, left, and Graham Roper returned pre-tax half-year profits up 58 per cent

selling price of £210,000 (£196,000 last year), Mr Pidgley said that after raising £73 million through a rights issue in January, the company had already bought enough land for a year's building and had been able to avoid the worst of the current 30 per cent fall in land prices.

Sharp demand from Far East clients accounted for 20

per cent of sales, which rose to £203 million (£146 million). The company said the demand was being helped by residents of Hong Kong, looking to buy houses in London before the change to Chinese rule.

Roger Lewis, finance director, said he expected business from the Far East to grow in the second half. "We don't

realise just how much wealth there is over there. They are savers, and they are looking to invest in property."

Earnings were 21.2p per share (18p). An increased interim dividend of 2.5p (2.2p) is due on February 14. The shares of Berkeley accelerated from 611p to 632.5p yesterday, compared with January's rights issue price of 435p.

Mr Lipsitch said there is considerable scope to expand the number of stores, but would not be drawn on a specific interest in any outlets owned by House of Fraser, Alders' troubled rival.

Alders is paying a final dividend of 3.7p. The total payout for the year, including the special interim dividend of 46p, is 52.1p.

**Allders in buoyant mood as profits soar**

By CLARE STEWART

SALES are booming at Alders, the department store group which yesterday reported year-end results.

Profits for the year to September 30 were boosted by Alders' sale of its duty free retail business to Swissair in July for £160 million. At the pre-tax level profits rose to £40.4 million (£23.5 million), while operating profits before exceptional items rose 35 per cent to £11.8 million.

Harvey Lipsitch, chief executive, said: "It was a year of two distinctive halves. After a 0.8 per cent increase in like-for-like sales in the first half, there was a 16 per cent rise in the second half. Provided economic recovery can be sustained, we regard the outlook for the current year as the most promising for some time."

The proceeds of the sale of Alders International was used to repay borrowings and fund a £50 million special dividend. The disposal also helped to fund Alders' acquisition of eight Owen Owen stores, taking the total number of Alders outlets to 30.

Mr Lipsitch said there is considerable scope to expand the number of stores, but would not be drawn on a specific interest in any outlets owned by House of Fraser, Alders' troubled rival.

Alders is paying a final dividend of 3.7p. The total payout for the year, including the special interim dividend of 46p, is 52.1p.

## Orders for private houses surge 27%

EVIDENCE that the housing recovery is spreading to the home building sector emerged yesterday, with orders for private new houses for the three months to October 31 rising by 27 per cent compared with the previous three months. Overall levels of construction orders were unchanged compared with the previous quarter, although the year-on-year rate rose by 2 per cent.

Public housing and association orders rose by 6 per cent over the previous quarter but were 8 per cent lower than at the same point last year. Infrastructure orders and private industrial orders also increased in the three months to October 31. Private commercial orders fell 24 per cent on a quarterly basis, while public non-housing orders fell 3 per cent.

## Ernst & Young at \$7.8bn

ERNST & YOUNG, the accountant, lifted worldwide revenue 13 per cent to \$7.8 billion in the year to September 30. The firm, which last week announced gross UK fee income up 14 per cent at £45 million, achieved double-digit growth across its worldwide practice. During 1996, the firm established global client consulting groups in Europe, Asia Pacific and Latin America and formed a global alliance with Tata Consultancy, the largest consultancy firm in Asia.

## Reshuffle at Cardinal

CARDINAL BUSINESS GROUP, the loss-making office equipment company that last year bid for Southern Business Group, its larger rival, yesterday parted company with Alan Baldwin, chairman and chief executive, and Paul Baldwin, sales and marketing director. Cardinal, worth only £3 million, is paying each man £200,000 compensation, funded by an issue of £1 million shares and increased borrowings. Andrew Ducker, finance director, becomes chief executive.

## Anglo United cuts losses

ANGLO UNITED, owner of the Falkland Islands Company, has reduced its losses from £10.2 million to £300,000 in the six months to September 30. This cuts losses per share from 1.2p to 0.1p. The group said the prospects for the Falkland Islands Company look encouraging given the interest in hydrocarbon development in the South Atlantic. The group's main earner is the smokeless fuel business, which achieved significantly better results than in the previous year.

## Saim in Robeco deal

SCOTTISH Amicable Investment Managers (Saim) is to sell its property investment management business to Robeco, the Dutch group, for an undisclosed sum. Douglas Ferrans, Saim's chief executive, said the business had been separated into a new company, Argyl Property Asset Management, which will operate independently from Glasgow. Argyl will have contracts to manage £1.7 billion of property for clients that include the £950 million Scottish Amicable Life Fund portfolio.

## Lower margins hit BSS

BSS GROUP is blaming lower gross profit margins across the construction sector for its slumping profits. In the six months to September 30, pre-tax profits fell from £6.8 million to £6.1 million and earnings per share slipped from 16.5p to 14.7p. The interim dividend was maintained at 6.5p. The group said: "We expect the first-half rate of reduction of profit compared with last year to continue for the full year." BSS plans to spend £1.4 million on the development of branches during the second half.

## Leeds Group hit by restructuring costs

RESTRUCTURING costs tore a hole from Leeds Group, the textiles manufacturer (Clare Stewart writes).

Pre-tax profits fell from £7.5 million to £3.04 million for the year to September 30. The final dividend is being held at 4.4p, but after an increased interim payout the total dividend has been increased for the 30th year running. The payout is raised to 6.7p (6.6p).

The expected provision of £2.4 million included redundancy and closure costs. During the year Leeds closed Leonard Ingham, its smallest

## Australian life insurer ahead

NATIONAL MUTUAL, the Australian life insurer which is 51 per cent owned by AXA of France, celebrated its first results as a publicly listed company with better than expected profits (Rachel Bridge writes).

The group, the first Australian life insurer to float on the stock market, reported annual net profits of A\$20.9 million (£10.24 million). It had pledged to deliver profits of A\$19 million for the year to September 30, up from A\$11.5 million the previous year.

Shares in National Mutual rose 6 cents to A\$1.78 on the news.

## Higher wages help to put a dent in Ashanti

ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS, the newly privatised Ghanaian gold mine, has been hit by soaring wage costs. Mine workers received a 40 per cent rise in dollar terms, helping to dent profits by 30 per cent (Oliver August writes).

The flagship of Ghana's economy, one-third owned by Lonrho, was forced to agree to a wage increase because it was lagging locally.

Pre-tax profits fell from \$106.2 million to \$74.4 million in the six months to September 30. Earnings fell to 79 cents from \$1.22 a share and

the interim was reduced from 37.5 cents to 12.5 cents. Analysts had forecast pre-tax profits of \$75-\$86 million.

Costs will be pushed up further in 1997 by lower grade output from surface operations at the Obuasi mine, Ashanti's biggest operation. This will offset measures to reduce the workforce to fewer than 12,000 from 13,500. But costs are to cut to \$250 an ounce in 1998 when the measures bite and more of Obuasi's production comes from high grade underground reserves.

**Have you calculated the real cost of airline loyalty schemes to your company?**

some travelling executives were choosing flights which earned maximum points rather than sticking to airlines offering the most economic flights

The Financial Times 7/10/96 (from MORI survey)



To fly an airline that's best for the company's bottom line call easyJet on 01582 44 55 77

Amsterdam £25, Nice & Barcelona £49, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen & Inverness £29  
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## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

### PUBLIC NOTICES

BY ORDER OF THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
IN THE CHANCERY DIVISION  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that  
THE MATTER OF CROWN BUILDINGS SERVICES LIMITED  
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE  
FALLEGWAY FARM FOODS COMPANY LIMITED  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that  
ON 28 NOVEMBER 1996 the  
above party was placed in liquidation under  
the Companies Act 1985 for the  
sum of £1,000,000.00.  
Liquidators by the administrators,  
John Edward and Michael John  
Fitzgerald, practitioners in  
the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot,  
have been appointed to  
conduct the liquidation of the  
above company. The liquidator  
will be entitled to receive  
any amount of money or value  
in respect of the assets of  
the company and to apply  
any amount of money or value  
in respect of the debts of  
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the Companies Act 1

# Shares move higher

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Change	Yield	PE
455	415	-42	2%	12
571	545	-26	4%	12
671	645	-26	2%	12
682	655	-27	2%	12
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**THE TIMES UNIT TRUST REPORT**



**■ THEATRE 1**  
Richard Eyre looks back with affection at a decade of success running the National



**■ THEATRE 2**  
Griff Rhys Jones and other stars light up the gala opening of the refurbished Cambridge Arts

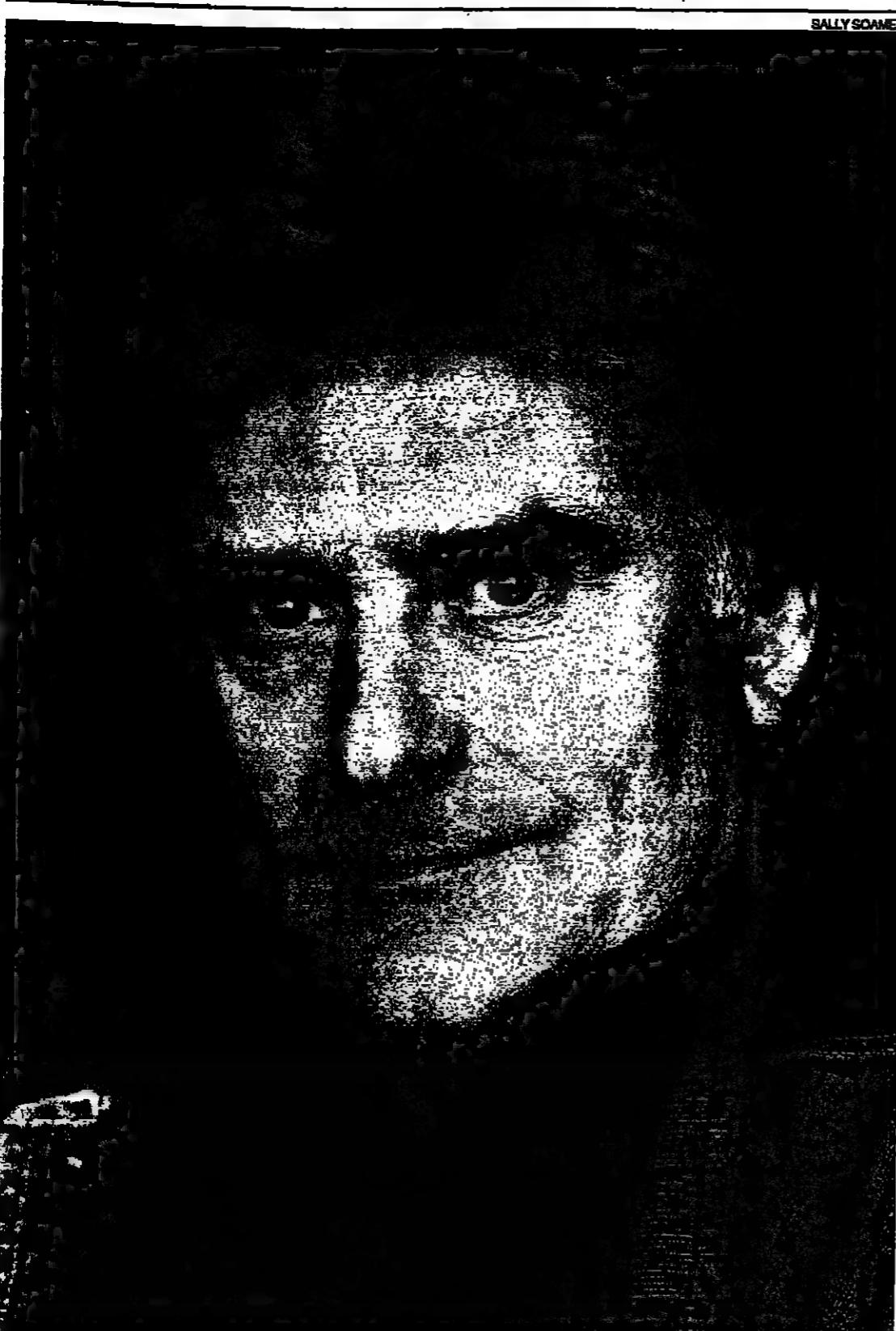
**THE TIMES**  
**ARTS**



**■ RISING STAR**  
Today, Orkney; tomorrow, the world: folk fiddler Jennifer Wrigley prepares to spread her wings



**■ TOMORROW**  
Canine capers: reviews of Glenn Close in *101 Dalmatians*, and all the other new movies



Richard Eyre: "I'd rather risk design overkill than imaginative underkill. My feeling is, let's use every device"

## With a song and a dance

This evening Robert Lepage's *Eldorado*, a one-man version of a play that normally finds place for a cast of 25, reopens a theatre that has been rebuilt in all directions, ie. upwards, downwards and sideways, which in dramatic terms is pretty much how Lepage treats *Hamlet*.

The Cambridge Arts Theatre was founded by John Maynard Keynes and David Rylands 60 years ago, and its structure was in dire need of being brought up to date. Some of the original planning was undertaken in a haphazard fashion. The orchestra pit was designed for the 39-strong orchestra of Sadler's Wells

and its dimensions determined by chalking circles around the conductor as he simulated the playing of each instrument in King's College Dining Hall.

The doors closed to public performance three years ago and within a few months the interior was a large hole. Now, £8 million later, including one of the earliest National Lottery grants, the hole has become a warm and efficiently air-conditioned auditorium, panelled with cherrywood (from the Raneyevskaya estate, perhaps).

At Sunday's gala opening Barry Brown, architect of the new theatre, sometime president of the Footlights and owner of an impressive roccoco

### Gala Opening Arts Theatre, Cambridge

funniest of the sequences in her one-woman show *Dickens' Women*. The woman here was Mrs Corney, gushing and frolicsome, being proposed to by an immensely self-satisfied Mr Bumble.

Then it was time for operas from Mozart, Puccini et al and, since a tenor and a baritone were on hand, a duet to do with pearls and fishers. Choristers from King's College sang settings of Shakespeare, and sixth-formers from local schools hurtled us through the Brecht/Weill *Happy End*, though I'd have preferred a couple of complete numbers instead of a frustrating nibble at several.

Finally, it was Griff Rhys Jones, giggling at the absurdity of the song he had chosen, a country and western parody about a cowpoke who, well, poked cows. The occasion was a proper mixture of the light and the heavy, amateur and professional, faithful to the Keynes vision, except that this time no one needed to draw any chalk circles to realise it.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## Jolly japes for all

"WE'RE ready for good times in London tonight," sings the chorus, a doughty group of Londoners during the Blitz. Since *Dick Daredevil* is a pastiche of Forties fictions, they must endure a few more frights before they are granted their wish. Romances, radio adventure serials and Broadway musicals provide the raw material for writer Phil Willmott and composer Steven Markwith. This occasions some fairly extraordinary turns of event for the good Londoners, in particular, young Billy Spratt, a devotee of the mighty *Dick Daredevil Adventure Hour* on the wireless. How thrilling for Billy that his hero is transported to Earth to help out with a case of Nazi spying. How frightening that he is removed to the planet Zarg, where he performs some heroic.

Musical genes: The twins started playing at eight. Father plays "a bit", but the real influence was grandfather, "a pretty good Oreadian pianist". When can we see them? Not until March when they return from conquering the world, but there is a show on Radio 2 in the new year. They begin recording an album in April and will be playing the British folk festivals next summer. Secret of success: "Being different. Most players with any technical proficiency can copy traditional music. We write tunes based on tradition but with our own personality."



**GREAT BRITISH HOPES**  
Rising stars in the arts firmament  
JENNIFER WRIGLEY

Age: 22

Why is she in the news? Because playing the fiddle has just won her the BBC Radio 2 Young Tradition Award, the top prize for upcoming folk musicians in Britain. And don't forget twin sister Hazel who plays guitar: usually they perform together, but the competition rules only allow solo artists.

Where's home? Orkney, although they now live in Edinburgh. For the next three months the Wrigley girls will be living out of suitcases: part of the prize is a showcase performance at the international Folk Alliance conference in Toronto, but a world tour will also take in the Far East and the US.

What's so special about Orcadian music? "It has a lovely rolling feel. It doesn't go at a hundred miles an hour like Irish music. There are lots of polkas and a Norse influence."

Who are her heroes? "So many great traditional musicians from Scotland, Ireland, America, but if I had to single one out it would be Tom Anderson, a brilliant fiddle player from Shetland who taught me a lot."

Musical genes: The twins started playing at eight. Father plays "a bit", but the real influence was grandfather, "a pretty good Oreadian pianist".

When can we see them? Not until March when they return from conquering the world, but there is a show on Radio 2 in the new year. They begin recording an album in April and will be playing the British folk festivals next summer.

Secret of success: "Being different. Most players with any technical proficiency can copy traditional music. We write tunes based on tradition but with our own personality."

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

singing at such close range. Willmott directs neatly and Denise Range's choreography ensures that they fall over each other only at the appropriate moments.

You might expect such a musical to be faced with the ironies of the Nineties, but Willmott's tone is so affectionate that there isn't much to separate *Dick Daredevil* from the forebears it draws upon. This is a show without cynicism, which also means that it recycles virtually all the wartime platitudes.

When the plot warms up the company serves it well. The charms of the piece are embodied by its comic-book adventures.

The publicity claims that the show is suitable for those aged six and upwards. You'd only quibble if you felt such old-fashioned fun was rather rose-tinted for youngsters today.

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# The guy who grew up at the National

Benedict Nightingale talks to Richard Eyre about his decade directing the NT

Hanging on the wall of Richard Eyre's office at the National Theatre is a framed letter signed "very concerned, Tunbridge Wells", but actually penned by the cartoonist Raymond Briggs. "You must not become a boring civil servant," it says. "IT IS DEATH." And by way of emphasising that Eyre should not, cannot take the theatre's top job, there is a skull and crossbones above the signature.

Well, the Eyre who retires as the National's director next September does not look like a corpse, still less a civil servant, nor does he feel that he should have listened to the Cassandra in 1988. He is a bit greyer, as a 53-year-old has a right to be, and a little tired, as he certainly should be after a long rehearsal of the revival of *Gigs and Dolls* that opens on Tuesday. But eight-odd hours spent working 12-hour days, producing some 150 plays, directing 20 of them himself, and ensuring he will hand on a solvent, buoyant National to Trevor Nunn, have not dimmed that furrowed, diffident enthusiasm

and, in a way, the power. The first of these regrets will not surprise anybody who has observed Eyre's efforts to ensure that his South Bank "Oz" is more about people and plays than committees and concrete. Working harmoniously with colleagues is "the highest form of human activity, a microcosm of what we try to achieve in a family and a relationship".

But power? Eyre may exude what his predecessor, Peter Hall, called a "shy strength", but he

call designer theatre. Still, I'd rather risk design overkill than imaginative underkill. If there's been a unifying factor in what we've done it's been a belief in the power of the theatre, by which I mean those characteristics of the theatre that can't be translated into any other medium."

Another criticism of Eyre may be that he has failed to create a distinctive company at the National. But as Hall also found, ensembles are hard to reconcile

with the need to weave 15 plays a year in and out of three very different auditoriums. "And I'd argue that we have a de facto ensemble. By next September Judi Dench will have given five of the last ten years at the National."

Dench, David Hare, Katie Mitchell and many other creative talents have profited from Eyre's National, and he feels he has profited from it, too. The theatre has, he says, forced him to overcome his natural reticence, grow up, and take responsibility for difficult, sometimes unpopular decisions. So why, then, does he want to go? "I've been here for nearly ten years, and that's a decade of my tastes and my choices. Change is good for the organisation, good for the public and good for me. I'd hate to outstay my welcome."

Oddly, he does not remember money, or the lack of it, as being the greatest of his problems. Every June, he says, he told his board there were financial disasters ahead, and every time the theatre muddled through. But his stoicism is tempered by dismay at the effects of the rising seat prices

that have kept the National afloat. "I'm afraid the social base of our audiences is less broad than it was even in the early 1970s, and that troubles me, because art should be available to everyone."

That is one problem Eyre is regretfully handing over to his successor. Another is that most younger directors are eager to work in the little Coesloe, but find the Lyttelton impersonal and the Olivier's 1,200-seat amphitheatre intimidating. "It's partly a generational thing," says Eyre.

"But it's true that the Olivier is a vast volume to fill, and it takes a huge amount of physical and emotional energy to fill it. Without that and a minimum of 700 in the audience, the event doesn't occur."

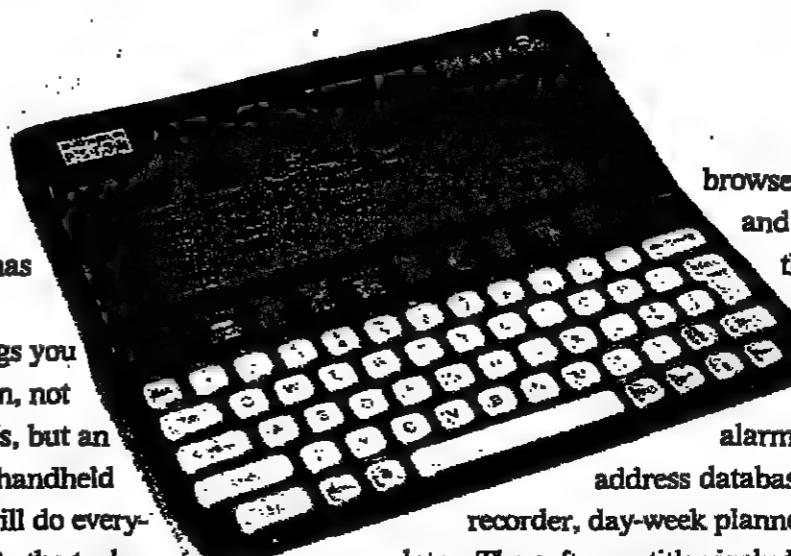
**O**n the evidence of Eyre's original staging of the show, back in 1982, this will not be a problem with *Gigs and Dolls*. It may not be his last production as National director, but it should be his biggest and most ebullient. The practical reason he is restaging it is that the National needs a Christmas money-spinner, but the more personal one is that he warms to its good-hearted handling of love and reconciliation. "It's one of the English-speaking world's great romantic comedies."

With Henry Goodman and Imelda Staunton replacing Bob Hoskins and Julia Mackenzie as the gamester and his moll, Eyre hopes for a more edgy, 1990s feel. With the more complete performers who are currently emerging from drama school, he hopes the singing and dancing will be more professional. And then, of course, there are Frank Loesser's songs. "You can't separate the melody from the lyrics or the wit from the feeling. In an ideal world I'd have thought of something new for Christmas, but I couldn't, so I went for something I love."

• *Gigs and Dolls* opens at the Olivier on Dec 17 (0171-928 2253)

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CHANGING TIMES





## ■ FILM

The Trekkers come out to welcome the latest cinematic venture of the Starship Enterprise



## ■ RECITALS 1

Crossing over: Anne Sofie von Otter puts her Lieder to one side to sing new songs by Elvis Costello



## ■ RECITALS 2

... and the Wigmore Hall also enjoys Thomas Hampson paying bicentenary tribute to Carl Loewe



## ■ OFFER

Special prices on tickets to Matthew Hart's dance work: see the Theatre Club panel

# Enterprise culture for one-trek minds

**FILM:** Debra Craine boldly goes where millions have gone before, into the ever-expanding *Star Trek* universe

**I**t's time to "out" myself. As dance critic of *The Times* I spend my evenings in the theatre captivated by the spectacle of decorous ladies in tutus being wooed by noble lads in tights. But later, in the privacy of my own living room, I indulge in a very different sort of spectacle — that of Starfleet officers and Klingon warriors, transporter beams and holodeck theme parks, phasers, wormholes and warp drive. For in my other life I am a closet Trekker, an armchair traveller in the *Star Trek* universe.

I am not alone. There are millions more like me, resident in more than 100 countries, devotees of four different *Star Trek* television series, loyal followers of seven *Star Trek* films and happy consumers in a \$1 billion global industry. We buy the mugs, the starship telephones, the glow-in-the-dark watches, the communicators, key rings, the videos and the *Star Trek* Barbie dolls. We support a massive publishing industry, everything from *The Klingon Dictionary* to *The Star Trek Encyclopedia*. There are more than 70 million *Star Trek* books in print available in more than 15 languages, including Chinese, Norwegian and Hebrew; 13 *Star Trek* books are sold every minute.

We attend *Star Trek* conventions held every weekend of every year; we read *Hamlet* translated into Klingon; we even buy our groceries with a *Star Trek* credit card. And according to the British Psychological Society, our addiction is akin to smoking or alcoholism. Take away our books and our videos and we go off the rails.

Yet the *Trekker* phenomenon had a modest beginning. The original series, the so-called "classic" *Star Trek*, was devised by Gene Roddenberry and was first aired in America on September 8, 1966. A low-budget, modest affair, it ran for just 79 episodes, and after three years because of poor ratings. But *Star Trek* was the show that

wouldn't die. Endless syndicated repeats gave birth to an indefatigable underground cult; then in 1979 came the first Hollywood film, and in 1987 *The Next Generation*, the first of three spin-off television shows.

And now there is a new *Star Trek* film to fuel our obsession in this 30th anniversary year. *Star Trek*:



**• Star Trek has endured because it provides a vision of hope**

**JONATHAN FRAKES**

*First Contact*, which opens in Britain on Friday, features Patrick Stewart (a former RSC actor) as Jean-Luc Picard, captain of the Enterprise E, leading his crew into battle against the machine-like Borg, a confrontation that takes both sides back to the day in 2063 when Earth first made contact with beings from outer space.

The film took \$60 million in its first ten days of release in America, making No 8 the biggest grossing *Star Trek* film ever. It features the cast of *The Next Generation*, the most successful of the telly spin-offs

(*Deep Space Nine* and *Voyager* are the other two), and it is also the best, thanks to imaginative scriptwriting, high production values, and the skills of Jonathan Frakes, who injects a good deal of humour into the proceedings both as actor and director.

What is it about Gene Roddenberry's simplistic view of life in outer space that continues to inspire us 30 years after the former airline pilot pitched his idea to sceptical TV executives? Is it the warm-hearted liberalism of the Enterprise crew? The optimism of a Utopian universe where diplomacy triumphs over discord and where good guys always win and bad guys always lose? Or is it the perennial lure of science fiction, the need to believe we are not alone in the galaxy?

Frakes, who stars as Picard's sidekick Commander Riker, places his faith in the "feel-good" factor.

"*Star Trek* has endured because it provides us with a vision of hope for the future," he says.

"When I auditioned for the television show nine years ago, Gene told me that in the 24th century there will be no hunger, no greed, and all the children will know how to read. Well given what's going on in Bosnia and elsewhere, the world is in such an appalling state. Many of the people who watch the show would be lucky to have such a future. And we don't apologize for that optimism."

Indeed, there are even those who will argue the case for *Star Trek* as a shaper of moral values. Right from the beginning, the Roddenberry ethos was defined by its unashamedly humanism. That is what's so healthy about the show," says Frakes. "It is anti-racism, anti-sexism, anti-violence. The objective was always to make some kind of statement about honour and respect for human life. I think that without a doubt it has done some good; it has spoken to people. At the heart of it has always been a moral imperative."

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The successful applicant will have:  
 \* Five years demonstrable work experience in a budget or administrative management role.

\* 2 GCSE "A" levels" or equivalent.

\* Computer literate with excellent Data and Word Processing skills.

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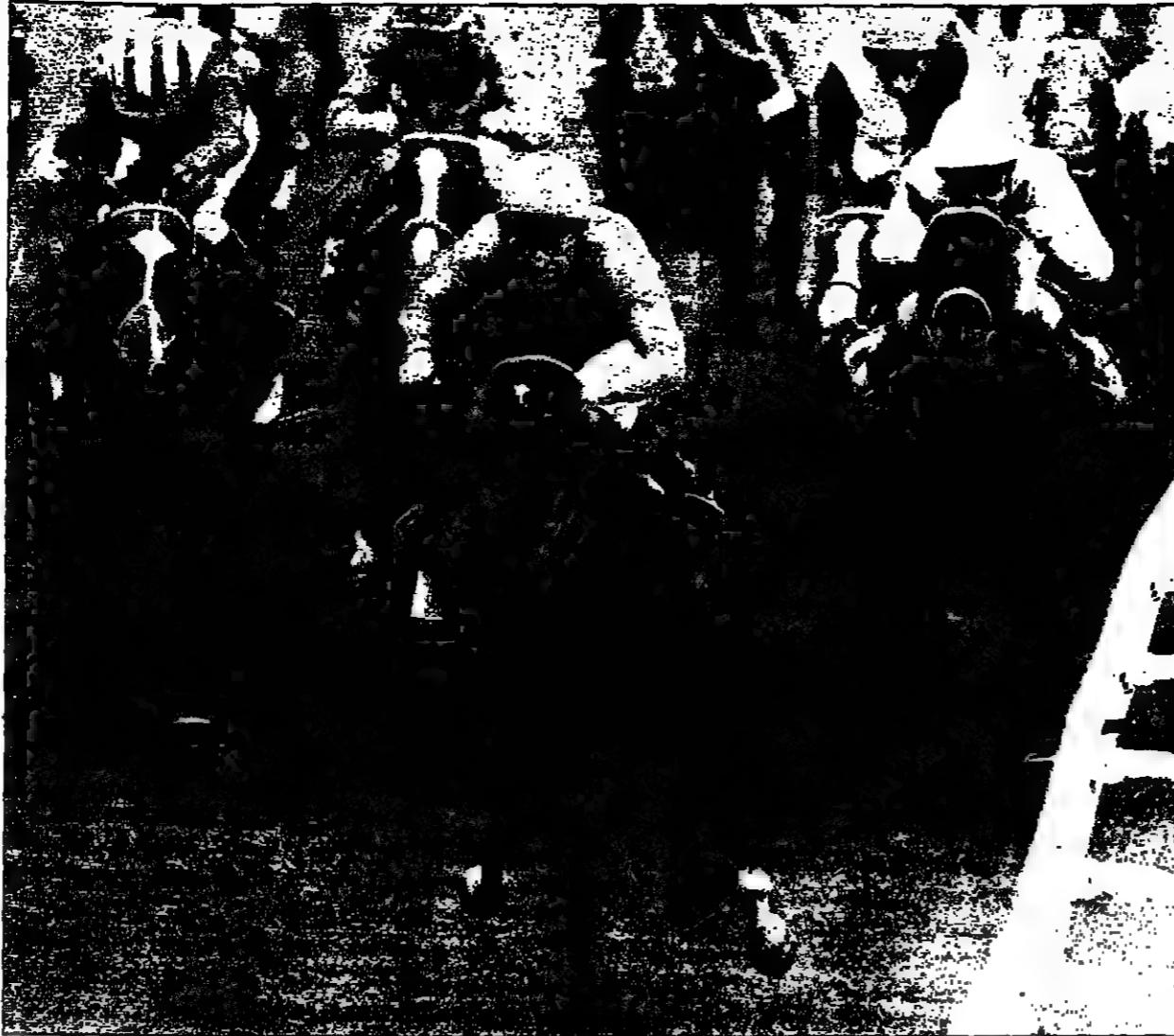
RACING: MAKTOUMS MAINTAIN SUPPORT FOR YEARLING ENTRY STAGE TO BLUE RIBAND

# Epsom on track for £1m Derby

By JULIAN MUSCAT

EPSOM racecourse is looking forward to staging the first £1 million Derby after it emerged yesterday that the new supplementary entry system, announced two months ago, had not deterred owners from nominating horses in the traditional manner.

Fears that the Maktoom family would bypass the yearling entry, which closed on December 4, were allayed when upwards of 150 Maktoom-owned horses were among the nominees. The full list is expected to be published later this week, and it will be surprising if the entry is insufficient to entertain a sev-



Nap: FANTASY LINE  
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en-figure purse for the first time in 1998.

In October, the Epsom executive introduced a £75,000 supplementary stage, payable seven days before the Epsom classic. The move was designed to allow horses not already nominated a route into the race. The Blue Riband has suffered this decade because non-eligible horses have landed a significant proportion of Derby trials. Their non-participation at Epsom has diluted the quality of Britain's premier race.

However, concern that the new mechanism would undermine the yearling entry stage were cast aside by Sheikh Mohammed's racing manager, Anthony Stroud. "We did our sums and established a substantial difference in favour of entering yearlings," he said. "We view the new supplementary stage as an opportunity to enter horses that warrant the opportunity — particularly fillies, as might have happened with Oh So Sharp in 1985."

Sheikh Mohammed's Derby Stud Management is well

represented with 70 yearling entries at last week's deadline. That is ten fewer than last year, but the sheikh-inspired Godolphin stable — which now embraces yearlings owned by Sheikh Maktoom and Sheikh Hamdan — has underlined its commitment by nominating 48 yearlings.

The yearling entry is the most cost-effective, for us," Godolphin's racing manager, Simon Crisford, said. "If we missed out the yearling stage and had a borderline case, or a horse with a niggling injury, seven days before the Derby,

we probably couldn't justify supplementing it," he said. "After all, £75,000 is a lot of money. Entering now also means we won't have to guess whether a lightly raced horse is worth supplementing."

The Derby entry structure is complicated but Maktoom support at the yearling stage was crucial to achieving the much-desired £1 million pot. With each yearling costing £250 to nominate, the Dubai family have already paid upwards of £40,000 into the prize-money pool for 1998. Further forfeits are due as the

race approaches — together with a second opportunity to enter, as a cost of £8,000 — two months before the race. A Derby runner entered as a yearling will have cost his owner £5,000 in fees.

Prize-money of £859,000 was distributed among the first four finishers in this year's Derby. Given a similar prize-money pot in 1998, it will require just two late supplements to swell the pool beyond £1 million.

However, Epsom faces an uphill struggle to maintain the size of the yearling entry. The

1997 Derby attracted 554 nominations, a near 11 per cent fall on the previous year. A similar number is expected for 1998.

Derby Day itself is also perceived to be in decline. The event was poorly promoted to the public prior to Epsom's purchase by Racecourse Holdings Trust in 1994. In promising to deliver a £1 million Derby, the new supplementary entry system in 1998 will also allow the best horses the chance to compete. These are two significant landmarks in the Derby's regeneration.

Sheikh Mohammed's Derby Stud Management is well

**THUNDERER**  
2.30 LORD OF THE WEST (nap)  
3.00 Lord McMurrough.  
3.00 Kite Me.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:  
1.30 SLINGSBY.

**GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (CHASE COURSE); GOOD TO SOFT (HURDLES)**

**1.00 ASH MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE**

(£2,902; 2m) (10 runners)

1 2111 MELSTOCK MERGEE (6s) (Mrs A Beckwith) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-3 W Mares  
2 2124 GOLDEN GATE (2s) (L) J Duncanson 7-10-12 -  
3 2127 LADY FOLEY (6s) (P Steddy) P Merton 5-10-10 -  
4 2130 FANTASY LINE (16s) P Steddy 5-10-10 -  
5 2132 SLENSBY (16s) P Steddy 5-10-10 -  
6 2133 FAIRY FOLLY (2s) (P Steddy) P Steddy 4-10-10 -  
7 2134 QUALIFIRE 577 (2s) (Ovaline Holdings) J Duncanson 4-10-10 -  
8 2135 QUICK SILVER (2s) (M Batten) M Batten 8-10-10 -  
9 2136 TRENCH 28 (2s) (M Batten) M Batten 8-10-10 -  
10 2137 FANTASY LINE (2s) (P Steddy) P Steddy 8-10-10 -  
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FOOTBALL: SOUTH COAST CLUB SET FOR MORE SECURE FUTURE AFTER BEING FLOATED ON STOCK MARKET

# Southampton join big league

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

**SOUTHAMPTON**, never recognised as more than country cousins among city slickers, have joined the big league. The south coast club is to be floated on the stock market after being taken over yesterday by Secure Retirement plc, a property development and healthcare company, in a move that values the club at £101 million.

Secure has offered to purchase Southampton for £7.91 million and it has been accepted by the FA Carling Premiership club's board of directors. Shareholders of Secure will have to back the bid at an extraordinary general meeting and accept the change of name to Southampton Leisure Holdings plc.

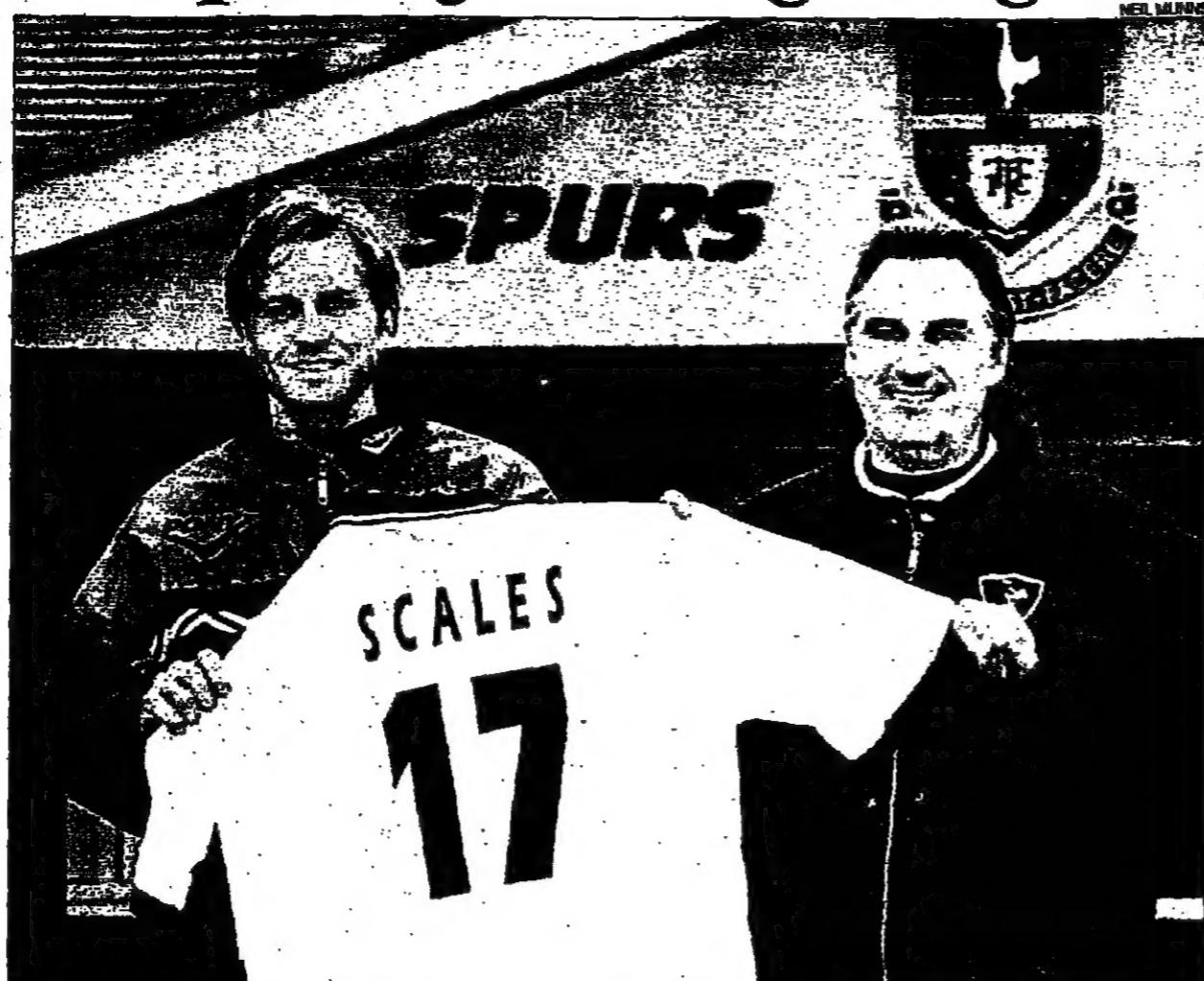
A stock market listing will make it much easier for the club to raise additional funds needed for its new stadium — a £40 million development to be situated on a 60-acre site at Southampton, on the northern outskirts of the city.

Secure has promised to inject £3 million into the new company immediately, with another £2 million likely to follow within 12 months. In return, it will hold half the seats on the board of Southampton Leisure Holdings plc, which will be chaired by Rupert Lowe, Secure's existing chairman.

"We are aiming to create, in Southampton, a footballing force for the millennium and, in the new stadium, a focal point for the local community," Lowe said. "Southampton is a very well-run club with great potential and represents a highly attractive investment."

Guy Askham, the Southampton chairman, said: "This is a very important deal for the club, its shareholders, staff and supporters. Secure is bringing to the table cash, access, access to stock market funds and proven business skills. We have great ambitions for this club and this deal will play a vital part in achieving them."

Lawrie McMenemy



Scales, left, happy to be with his new manager, Gerry Francis, at Tottenham's training ground yesterday

claimed it was the most significant event at the club since he brought Kevin Keegan to The Dell as a player in 1980. He signed Keegan, now the Newcastle United manager, from Hamburg for £400,000.

"This is the most important thing to happen here since I got Kevin," McMenemy, the director of football, said. "It gives the club a springboard for the future, as did his arrival. People really sat up and took notice when we signed him and a few others. There are one or two clubs who are already in the second division of the stock market and, by our merger, we have

overtaken them all and jumped straight in with the big boys. If we are to be in with those big boys, we have to behave like them."

The premier league is an exciting place to be and, as a product, it is marketed extremely well. We have been in the top flight for 17 years, against all the odds, but we have still managed to make people notice us."

Hampshire County Council is to discuss the latest development tomorrow. It needs final reassurances that, before it hands over the site at Southampton, Southampton has its financial backing in place.

Mike Hancock, the council leader, said yesterday: "We are delighted that Southampton have demonstrated they have the ability to provide the funding necessary to build the stadium."

"We have always wanted to provide a stadium for the south of England which will be second to none, and this is a significant step."

Eight Premiership, Nationwide League and Bell's Scottish League clubs have joined the stock market, including Tottenham Hotspur, Manchester United, Preston North End, Chelsea and Celtic. It is believed that Aston Villa,

Newcastle United and Sheffield United — after its takeover by Conrad, the leisure group — are preparing similar moves.

Southampton's deal with

Secure, which is based in Bristol, is known in the City as a "reverse takeover" because Secure has smaller assets. The company has been quoted on the Stock Exchange since 1994 and its shares were suspended yesterday morning, at 47p, in line with Stock Exchange rules.

"I'm more used to reverse passes than reverse takeovers but this is great news for the Saints," McMenemy said.

## Tottenham ambition persuaded Scales

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

**JOHN SCALES**, Tottenham Hotspur's £2.6 million signing, bears no grudge against Leeds United for releasing him, with the attached report "not good enough", as a youngster 11 years ago. Should he return to the city on Saturday, when Tottenham visit Elland Road in the FA Carling Premiership, it is unlikely that the officials, or supporters of Leeds will be so forgiving.

Scales, 30, was due to move from Liverpool to Leeds at the weekend but, after the late intervention and successful persuasion of Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, and Gerry Francis, the manager, he decided to opt for White Hart Lane instead. Cut much gnashing of teeth from Bill Fotherby, the Leeds chairman, and Eric Hall, Scales's adviser.

Fotherby subsequently berated Scales for being "sneaky", while the ubiquitous Hall, agent to leading players, was also left feeling miffed. He was effectively brokering the deal with Leeds but had no influence over the sudden switch. "Eric had nothing to do with the negotiations with Tottenham," Scales said.

"I was very impressed with what Gerry had to say. I like his plans and his ambitions, I am ambitious, too, which is why I preferred Tottenham. It was purely a football decision."

Francis, who signed Steffen Iversen, the Norway Under-21 striker, for £2.5 million six days ago, will give Scales a run-out in a reserve match today. He has not played for more than a month because of a groin injury.

"If John is fit enough, he will play against Leeds," Francis said. "I have no worries, and nor does he, about any adverse reaction from the Leeds people."

## Derbyshire refuse to give in to Adams

**DERBYSHIRE** say they intend to make Chris Adams honour his contract, despite an offer from the batsman to buy out the remaining two years at a personal cost of £50,000 (Richard Hobson writes). Adams, 26, has asked a solicitor to check the validity of his contract under the Treaty of Rome. He says that his desire to leave the County Ground stems from his ambition to play for England rather than the prospect of earning higher wages with another county.

Adams scored 1,421 first-class runs at an average of 52.78 last season and, although only Graham Gooch and Steve James recorded higher aggregates, he failed to win selection for the England A tour to Australia. Adams claimed that Derbyshire gave a "gentleman's agreement" to review his contract at the end of last season if he was unhappy.

## Amaechi pulls out

**BASKETBALL**: John Amaechi, England's leading scorer in their past two internationals, has withdrawn from the squad due to visit Germany next Wednesday for family reasons. The forward insists that his absence has nothing to do with England's failure to progress from the semi-final round in the European championship. Amaechi, 26, has promised to make himself available for the home game against Portugal next month.

## England well placed

**CRICKET**: Alex Tudor and Dean Cosker took eight wickets between them to put England on course for a convincing victory over Pakistan in the opening under-19 international in Faisalabad yesterday. Pakistan, who went into their second innings with a lead of 26, were pried out for 123, setting England 150 to win. Cosker, the Glamorgan slow left-arm, returned superb figures of five for 36. England finished on 99 for three, leaving them 51 runs short of victory going into the final day today.

## Depleted India hold on

**HOCKEY**: India, reduced to ten men for half the match, held Holland to a 1-1 draw in the Champions Trophy in Madras yesterday. Santiago Deo, the Spanish umpire, sent off Mohammad Riaz, the Indian midfield player, in the first minute of an ill-tempered encounter for hitting Marten Eikel in the face. Spain scored twice in the last seven minutes to snatch a 2-2 draw against Pakistan, while Germany, the defending champions, beat Australia 3-1 in heavy rain and fading light.

## Boost for cyclists

**CYCLING**: Six young riders will benefit next year from the Dave Rayner Fund, established when Rayner, a successful British professional, died in 1994 after an accident at a Bradford nightclub. Each will receive support for six months while they live and race in Europe, seeking contracts with leading teams. The six are: Gavin Sellen (Northfleet), Jamie Burrow (Darford), Charly Wegelius (York), Justin Clarke (Ewell), Nell Jones (Abergavenny) and Paul Manning (Burntwood).

## Ginola steering on a different course

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

CLIVE WALKER

is staying at Woking, the club confirmed yesterday. The FA Cup giant-killers have blocked Walker's move to their Vauxhall Conference rivals, Rushden and Diamonds, who offered him a lucrative 2½-year contract and a coaching post.

Walker, 39, has been informed of the club's decision and appears ready to accept it. "I have never wanted to leave Woking, everybody knows that," he said.

Although Walker accepts that Woking cannot match the reported £800-a-week from Rushden, he will hope they now make him a new offer, with coaching responsibilities, to ensure he stays committed to Kingfield.

The Woking management committee met on Monday to discuss Rushden's interest in the former Chelsea winger, who scored in both their away wins in the Cup, over Millwall and Cambridge United.

They issued the following statement yesterday morning: "We do not wish to lose the services of Clive Walker and have, therefore, refused the application from him to take up the position of player-coach with Rushden and Diamonds."

"The committee reiterated its wish to retain the services of Clive, who is still on contract to Woking until the end of the season."

Woking insist they have played fair with the player by informing him of the approach from their wealthy rivals. But they add: "The committee, along with the

manager, recognise the magnificent part played by all the players and supporters in the success of Woking FC. We don't intend to throw this away by getting rid of any key players."

Walker, 39, has been informed of the club's decision and appears ready to accept it.

"I have never wanted to leave Woking, everybody knows that," he said.

Although Walker accepts that Woking cannot match the reported £800-a-week from Rushden, he will hope they now make him a new offer, with coaching responsibilities, to ensure he stays committed to Kingfield.

The Frenchman, whose mercurial talents have only ignited sporadically this season, said: "You should not read too much into the commercial slogan because you never know what might happen at the end of the season. It is not easy to come to another country and work because you miss your family and friends and your normal way of life."

The liaison with Renault

could signal an unusual career move. He is involved in talks with them about racing in the British touring car championship next year and will take part in a test drive next week with Alain Menu, the leading Swiss driver.

"I love motor racing and I want to do some pro driving, but it depends on getting the go-ahead from Newcastle because of their insurance policy on me," Ginola said.

Paulo Futre, the Portugal

and West Ham United forward, announced his retirement yesterday at the age of 30. Futre told a news conference: "I said many years ago that I would never drag myself around the soccer field."

Futre, who had been trou-

bled by nagging knee injuries, moved from AC Milan to West Ham last July. He said his early retirement will stop him from living his "childhood dream" of playing for AS Roma, and that he had been negotiating a contract with Roma in the past few months while playing only occasionally for West Ham until his injuries permitted.

Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, was fined £750 by the FA yesterday after his touchline tirade against Paul Gascoigne, the referee who sent off two of his players in a match against Arsenal in September. "I was guilty," he said, "I will pay the fine and put it all behind me."

Brighton and Hove Albion's

problems are not so easily dismissed. They just get worse. Sir Derek Spencer, the MP for Brighton Pavilion, has written to the Department of Trade calling for an investigation into the way the troubled Nationwide League third division club is being run.

Wales, too, have had a bad

time of late, with two World Cup qualifying defeats, but Mark Hughes provided some relief when he announced that he would be joining up with the squad today for the group seven match against Turkey in Cardiff on Saturday. He missed Chelsea's 2-2 home draw with Everton last Saturday because of a badly-gashed shin sustained against Leeds United a week earlier.

## Homing in on chance of Cup upset

Andrew Longmore urges Stevenage to go for glory rather than cash in on away trip

**C**allers to Stevenage Borough FC yesterday were greeted by a recorded message from a girl who sounded as if she had just run the London Marathon. "Details of the arrangements (pause) for the FA Cup tie against Birmingham (pause) will be available (pause) within the next few days. (Big pause)." Please be patient."

So we will have to be while the police, the local council and the club officials debate whether the newly developed, 7,000-capacity Broadhall Way ground is fit to host a lively big-city club like Birmingham City, or whether loyalty will bow to mathematics and, by mutual agreement, the tie be switched to St Andrews.

Stevenage could hope to make about £25,000 in gate receipts from a home tie. Their 50 per cent share of a 25,000 crowd at Birmingham would be considerably higher. Only their credibility in the eyes of supporters and those neutrals who viewed their upstart challenge to the hierarchy with some relish last summer would suffer. The draw has done its best to strangle the life out of the third round without one of the non-league stars of the show elevating finance above romance.

"We want to play the tie at

home because we want to win and we want to demonstrate we can cope with league football off the field as well as on it," Paul Fairclough, the Stevenage manager, said.

"But to a large extent the decision is out of our hands." With the echoes of Hillsborough still ringing in their ears, the police tend to err on the side of caution, particularly as the record of Birmingham fans is far from spotless. Sudbury Town, for example, were allowed to play Brighton at home in the first round, but were sent to a

neutral venue, Colchester United, to play Brentford in the second for safety reasons.

Any change of venue, however, could have serious implications for Stevenage's hard-fought attempt to enter the Nationwide League, which finally founded in the High Court last summer. If the ground, which is apparently one mile block away from being awarded the highest certificate of safety, is not deemed safe to host the hordes from Birmingham at home without problems, but we don't want to cause problems through pig-headedness."

Like Macclesfield Town and Kidderminster Harriers before them, Stevenage fell foul of the Football League's December 31 deadline on ground development. But once they had capped a remarkable rise by winning the Vauxhall Conference, the club tried to persuade the football authorities that the ground would be ready in time for their first game in the third division.

The league would not budge and nor would the High Court, who rejected the club's case. Stevenage feel they should be playing Birmingham — or at least Barnet — every week, not just in the FA Cup, and nothing would satisfy honour more than to continue their run. Their best chance is to damn the money and play at home. It could be Manchester United

next season. "We do not wish to lose the services of Clive Walker and have, therefore, refused the application from him to take up the position of player-coach with Rushden and Diamonds."

"The committee reiterated its wish to retain the services of Clive, who is still on contract to Woking until the end of the season."

Woking insist they have played fair with the player by informing him of the approach from their wealthy rivals. But they add: "The committee, along with the

manager, recognise the magnificent part played by all the players and supporters in the success of Woking FC. We don't intend to throw this away by getting rid of any key players."

Walker, 39, has been informed of the club's decision and appears ready to accept it. "I have never wanted to leave Woking, everybody knows that," he said.

Although Walker accepts that Woking cannot match the reported £800-a-week from Rushden, he will hope they now make him a new offer, with coaching responsibilities, to ensure he stays committed to Kingfield.

The Frenchman, whose mercurial talents have only ignited sporadically this season, said: "You should not read too much into the commercial slogan because you never know what might happen at the end of the season. It is not easy to come to another country and work because you miss your family and friends and your normal way of life."

The liaison with Renault could signal an unusual career move. He is involved in talks with them about racing in the British touring car championship next year and will take part in a test drive next week with Alain Menu, the leading Swiss driver.

"I love motor racing and I want to do some pro driving, but it depends on getting the go-ahead from Newcastle because of their insurance policy on me," Ginola said.

Paulo Futre, the Portugal

and West Ham United forward, announced his retirement yesterday at the age of 30. Futre told a news conference: "I said many years ago that I would never drag myself around the soccer field."

Futre, who had been trou-

bled by nagging knee injuries, moved from AC Milan to West Ham last July. He said his early retirement will stop him from living his "childhood dream" of playing for AS Roma, and that he had been negotiating a contract with Roma in the past few months while playing only occasionally for West Ham until his injuries permitted.

Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, was fined £750 by the FA yesterday after his touchline tirade against Paul Gascoigne, the referee who sent off two of his players in a match against Arsenal in September. "I was guilty," he said, "I will pay the fine and put it all behind me."

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## Redgrave lengths ahead in personality test

The name of the award neatly skewers the medium's own ambivalent feelings about sport. On Sunday, we celebrate the sporting year, and with it, the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year.

It is a title that is not quite sure whether it is rewarding charisma or achievement, charm or victory, marketability or excellence. Such is modern televised sport not seeking to please sports enthusiasts, but to seduce those who do not give a hoot either way. But it is an award that, for some reason, matters. Matters to the people who receive it, matters to the rest of the sport. It is the result of a free vote, even if single-sport enthusiasts, especially from motor racing, perpetually distort it. It is not a scholarly assessment; it is an emotional business. What athlete means most to you?

If it was nothing but a chunk of end-of-term nonsense, an award that doesn't matter a jot, then I wouldn't trouble to write these words. But somehow it does seem to matter and, since I fear very much that the great British public will get it wrong — the track-record does not inspire total

**'He has given sport his youth and strength'**

confidence — I think we had better run through runners and riders before allowing my own contender to win by the length of the straight.

Outsiders include Stephen Hendry, who continues to purvey remorseless excellence in a televisable sport that has found some kind of level after the passing of its golden age. Nick Faldo, who won the Masters as Greg Norman collapsed like the House of Usher, is also in with a distant shout. There is a stronger argument to be made for Laura Davies, and a plausible feminist case for saying that she *should* win it.

She won two majors and topped the European money-list in a magnificent year. Her Bothemesque sense of style and occasion would make her pretty close to an automatic winner, were she male. I am not the world's No 1 cheerleader for golf, but Davies cuts across my antipathy. And as for "personality", whatever that is, she has it in bucket-fulls.

So does Frankie Dettori. I have only met him once, when I bumped into him outside some weighing-room or other, and he asked me

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

where so-and-so was. I told him and walked away, feeling that the world was a better place. There is something profoundly life-loving about him. And his afternoon of perfection at Ascot, his slaying of the bookmakers, is already a legend.

Tim Henman lightened the British summer at Wimbledon and gave a warm winter glow last week. He might well win it; but really, the title should reward achievement rather

than promise. Damon Hill has already won the title for losing, so perhaps it would be only fair if he won it for winning. He is a decent man and a champion more or less despite himself; he would be a more deserving winner than many.

But really, how can they not give it to Steve Redgrave? Rowing may not be mainstream, but the achievement is phenomenal. Four Olympic gold medals in four Games: we are talking about a man who commutes to and from the summit of Everest, the moon, Alpina Centauri.

If this were a reward for pure excellence, then Redgrave would, indeed, win it by the length of the straight.

But I can hear the gibe already forming on the lips of the irredeemably trivial: "Personality? What personality?"

Well, if you cannot see what personality, it says more about you than it does about Redgrave. True, he lacks the sunniness of Davies, the incandescence of Dettori. He lacks the thousand opportunities granted Hill and Henman for showing us his face and his emotions.

It is a strange fact of life that if you

touch ice, it seems to burn. That is the case with Redgrave. You get close to him and you are not sure whether you feel intense heat or intense cold.

He is a man capable of summoning up the frenzy of a berserker without for a second abnegating his perfect control. He is a man capable of giving his life to the freezing waters and the boiling, sweat-drenched gym. A man capable of giving everything, and then more. His decision to go for one more gold, while arousing knee-jerk responses — come off it, Steve, the game's been good to you — was one of a haunting nobility.

He has given his youth and strength. Now he will give it its age and weakness.

It is not a reward for

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## A new angle on Naughtie

Fishing Hotel Radio 4 (FM). 10.00am.

Programmes like this would never go out on radio if the BBC scrupulously observed its ban on advertising. At least the hotel isn't listed in the title, unlike the Thursday evening series currently on Radio 4 called *My Grandpa's Larder*. Last week it was subtitled *Birds' Custard*, tomorrow it's *Camp Coffee*. The anglers' retreat, the Lochmaddy, is on the Outer Hebrides island of North Uist. James Naughtie is interviewer and opera buff goes there for a spot of fly fishing. The last time he did it was when he was a lad. His instructor was his dad. What distinguishes a fishing hotel from any other? Naughtie is just the man to find out. He knows a good news angle when he sees one.

A Grand, Mysterious Harmony. Radio 3, 7.30pm.

After tonight, only two programmes remain in this unprecedented series that has explained Bruckner's symphonic legacy in fascinating detail. We are hearing all the symphonies, plus an evaluation of them by experts, and reminiscences from some of the people who knew the composer. Tonight, the BBC Philharmonic under Günther Herbig performs the little-heard original version of the No 8 which caused Bruckner such heartbreak. One of his great champions, Hermann Levi, refused to conduct the first performance because he said it bewilder him. Aptly, the No 8 was called *The Apocalyptic*. You can hear the revised No 8 next Wednesday night.

Peter Davalle

MOTOR RACING: FORMER WORLD CHAMPION FIRST TO FLAG WITH LAUNCH OF NEW CAR

## Wily Stewart steals march on rivals

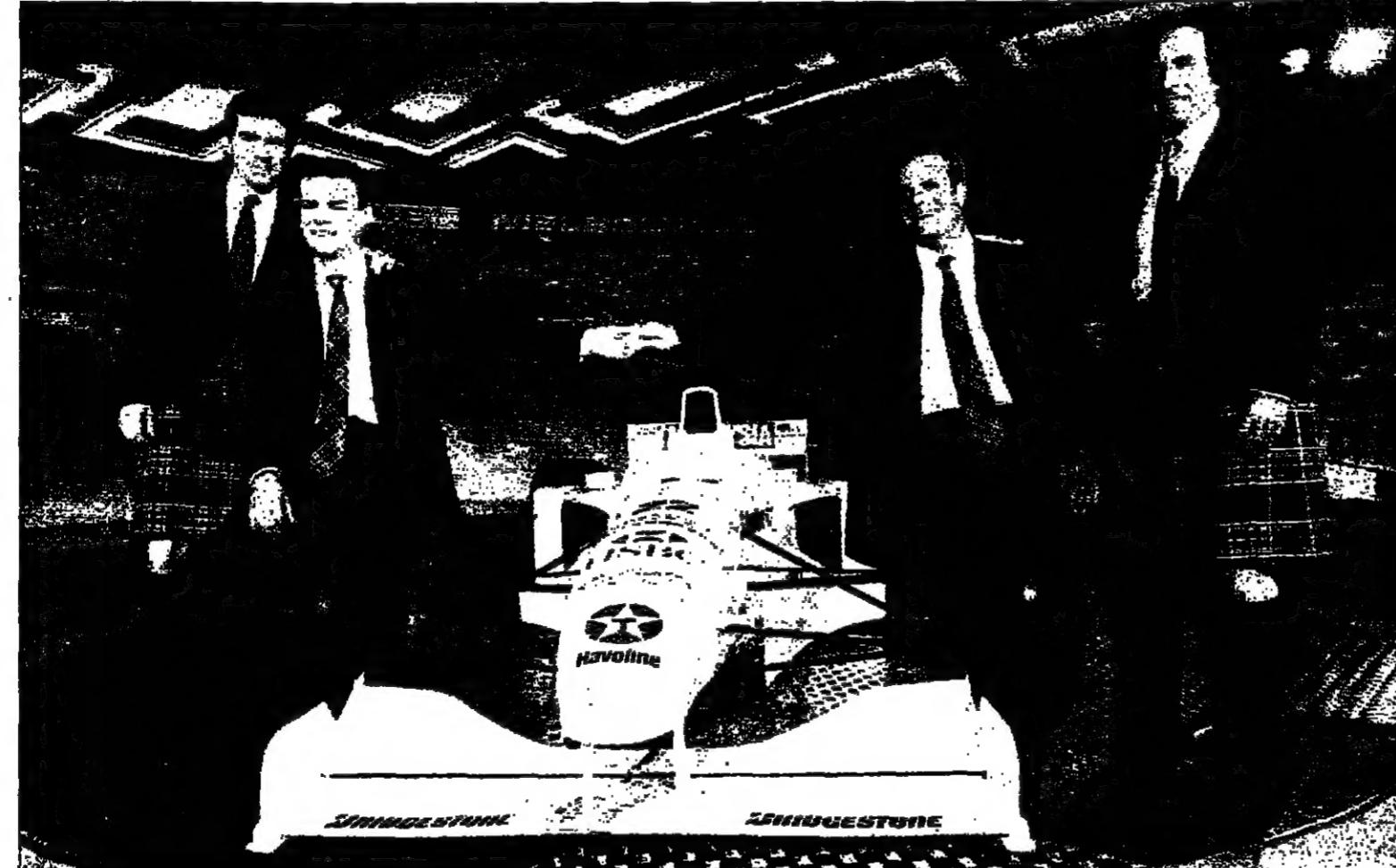
BY OLIVER HOLT

THE Formula One new boys bear the old guard to the punch yesterday. Stewart-Ford, who will contest their debut grand prix in Australia in March, unveiled their new car in front of the massed ranks of the media at a hotel in central London. If the grid for the Australian Grand Prix were governed by the glitz and professionalism of a launch, then Stewart would be on pole position.

At the centre of it all was Jackie Stewart, three times the world champion and now revelling in a return to the limelight. He indulged the foreign television crews who wanted to know all about Scotland and made jokes about how his new drivers would not be wearing kilts or tartan pyjamas in the cockpit. He did interviews for scores of television and radio stations and made all the right noises.

He said that it was not realistic for the team that he will run with his son, Paul, to hope to win races next season, despite the fact that he has raised £20 million in sponsorship from sources as disparate as the Malaysian Government, Sanyo, Texaco and the Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation.

That makes Stewart-Ford the best funded new team ever to enter Formula One and the operation oozes professionalism from top to bottom. Every small detail seems to have been taken into consideration. Stewart, for instance, said their research had shown that the white colour of the car was "excellent" for visual accessibility.



Jackie, far right, and Paul Stewart launch the new Formula One car with their drivers Jan Magnussen, left, and Rubens Barrichello

bility on television and that the tartan touches were "instantly pleasing to the eye".

"The way we have prepared for next season from scratch and the work that has been done," Paul Stewart said, "has

been nothing short of a miracle. Alan Jenkins, our designer, has been working flat out and it is very gratifying to see it all coming together. The only way we will know for sure, though, is when we get out on the track."

The car is scheduled to run for the first time within the next fortnight, possibly at Silverstone, although it is more likely that the outing will be at a warm-weather circuit such as Estoril or Barcelona. Whenever they decide, it will give Stewart and his drivers a crucial head start over the rest of the field. The next team due to launch their car is Ferrari on January 7.

"I'm full of more nervous excitement today than at any time in my life," Jackie Stewart said, after the car, which

will be powered by a Ford V10 engine, had been unveiled. "The decision to establish the Stewart-Ford team marks the most daunting challenge I have ever faced. But, to the best of my knowledge, we have the only car that has been designed from start to finish by computer and we are cautiously optimistic about the season ahead. The best we can realistically hope for, though, is podium finishes."

The aim is to improve steadily. This is not a fly-by-night organisation and all our deals, including those with our drivers are long-term deals. Within five years, we would hope to be in a position to be challenging for championships."

Much of the optimism rests

on the recruitment of the team's two young drivers, Rubens Barrichello, formerly of Jordan, Jan Magnussen, of Denmark. Magnussen, in particular, is rich in promise even though a stellar career in Formula 3, where he won more races than Ayrton Senna had a decade earlier, stalled in recent years when he committed himself to McLaren, but was given only limited testing time.

Simultaneously, he raced in the International Touring Car series but always yearned for a return to single-seater racing.

Jan was one of the first drivers on our list," Stewart said. "When he drove for us in Formula 3, he was so intelligent in bringing the car to its limit and knowing when he was there. He was quite

extraordinary. Now he is committed to Stewart-Ford 100 per cent and we have already been enormously impressed with him."

Stewart also revealed he now felt it might be a blessing in disguise that his team had lost out to TWR Arrows in the race for the signature of Damon Hill towards the end of last season. At the time, they were disappointed, he said, but that has passed.

"In many ways it would have been a great emotional boost to have Damon on board," he said. "But having the world champion in the team would have brought an enormous pressure to the team and its mechanics. We have invested in youth instead and we will go forward together now."

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# Flight of fancy encounters some turbulence

**T**here are men I know who would pay a lot of money to have coffee spilt in their laps by Jill Dando. But after last night's *Holiday Special: Faster Your Seatbelt* (BBC1) not as many as there were and willing to pay nothing like so much. Brace, brace — the BBC's favourite pin-up girl was about to crash-land.

"You're gorgeous," sang the soundtrack incessantly. But come on, who were they fooling? The idea of the air hostess as an integral part of the male sexual psyche died when somebody invented knee-length polyester. Dando — clad in easy-clean navy blue and a scarf that could induce motion sickness in a departure lounge — was about to discover why. Nobody, but nobody looks sexy in cabin crew uniform.

All of which must have come as something of a disappointment for Dando who, if the *Radio Times* is to be believed, is wearying of being

taken seriously as a newsreader and sensible presenter of *Criewatch*, and now wants to be treated as a sex object. Anybody who doubts the truthfulness of her intent cannot have been watching the latest season of *Holiday*, where her hitherto primly buttoned-up image has been slowly and rather distractingly... unbuttoned.

"Jill," gurgles an oily producer, "we'd like to do a piece to camera with you lying on the Caribbean foreshore, the waves just lapping gently around you, er..." Does this serious newsreader get up on his high-horse (jodhpurs, now there's an idea)? Does she stalk off in high judeo (fumm, handcuffs — sorry, thought you said dugeon?) She does not. Instead a long and lightly bronzed limb is extended slowly from a casually wrapped sarong. She's ready for her close-up now, Mr DeMille.

As an air hostess, it must be said La Dando was not really much

cop. She directed passengers to the wrong seats; she giggled her way through the safety demonstration and while the pros walked backwards down aisles dispensing undrinkable beverages, she walked forwards offering a large selection of apologies and more giggles.

**O**nly when it came to announcing the duty-free over the public address system, was she on safer territory. "In a moment, the cabin crew..." began those famous dulcet tones. "Sorry, but she's just too good at that," moaned a temporary colleague.

And with that she landed. It was back to real life and the humdrum world of being a ridiculously attractive newsreader, multi-faceted television presenter and a job travelling to the world's top holiday spots. It's tough being a sex object. Moving very slowly along, we came to the last episode of *Soldier*.

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

**Soldier** (ITV) — and I mean slowly. Nothing moves quite as ponderously or as awkwardly as a *Soldier*, *Soldier* plot. Last night it took so many implausible twists of a paper-thin story to get Butcher (Danny Cunningham) thrown into a French prison the day before he was due to marry Stacey (Kate O'Malley), that I quite despaired of ever getting to the end at all.

Then, after all the trouble of

getting him into prison, good old Steve (Shaun Dingwall) arranged his release in seconds — unseen and virtually unexplained. "I told them you were a war hero," Not so much a case of bearing the dramatic tension, as spotting it.

Ditto for the suspense that surrounded the Colonel's lady and the dashing Captain Forsyth. Really, if you're trying to keep your affair a secret from your husband, it's probably best if you boyfriend doesn't put his arms around you outside the officers' mess.

Taking the series back to basics after the departure of those unlikely superstars, Robson Greene and Jerome Flynn, was a brave move by the producers. But a bit of reasonably intensive surgery is still needed before the series returns again. While a young and largely unknown cast has certainly provided realism, a few of them are clearly right at the limits of their ability and are helped not a

jot by leisurely direction that seeks to paper over the deficiencies of the scripts by leaving the camera to linger on faces that have already forgotten which emotion it is they are supposed to be showing. Apart from that... it's fine.

**E**lsewhere a disastrous few days for Yorkshire police men continued. Last week Jimmy McGovern upset the South Yorkshire constabulary with *Hillborough* and last night *Neath First* (ITV) reminded us of the breathtaking incompetence of the West Yorkshire force with *Silent Victims: The Untold Story of the Yorkshire Ripper*. It was, however, a pretty gentle reminder, largely, I imagine, because the man recounting the untold story had last 15 years and only right at the end was it revealed that Sutcliffe's "new" confession had been made four years ago. Grimly fascinating, but hardly a network first.

Sutcliffe may have committed but was never charged with but delivering little. Sutcliffe eventually admitted two attempted murders to Hellawell — one that hadn't featured in the programme at all and one that *memorably* had.

This was an attack in the early 1970s on a 14-year-old schoolgirl who provided an identikit picture so accurate that Sutcliffe joked to his mother-in-law that it looked just like him.

Contemporaneous pop music accompanied each grisly reconstruction (this was no time to be playing *Name That Tune*) but it might have been more helpful had it accompanied Hellawell's account. Only gradually did it become clear that his secret injury had lasted 15 years and only right at the end was it revealed that Sutcliffe's "new" confession had been made four years ago. Grimly fascinating, but hardly a network first.

## BBC1

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (56850)  
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (97121)  
9.00 Breakfast Extra (T) (126414)  
9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (480753)  
9.45 KILROY (663752)  
10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK With Ainsley Harriott (75701)  
11.00 NEWS (T), regional news and weather (333936) 11.05 The Really Useful Show Consumer advice (533487) 11.45 Smiley's People (373530)

12.00 NEWS (T) and weather (227463)  
12.05pm POLICE RESCUE (8227430)  
12.55 THE WEATHER SHOW (5581701)

1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (44662) 1.30 Regional News and weather (34272350)  
1.40 NEIGHBOURS (T) (2978465) 2.00 Call My Bluff (7072) 2.30 A Walk In The Country. A guide to what's going on in the countryside (817) 3.00 Incongruous Quiz on Wheels (3879)

3.30 ANTS IN YOUR PANTS (5948614) 3.50 Chucklevision (5928850) 4.10 Get Your Own Back (T) (1872185) 4.35 The Queen's Nose (T) (7651701) 5.00 Newsround (T) (5219826) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (852168)

5.35 NEIGHBOURS (T) (170904)

6.00 NEWS (T) and weather (545)

6.30 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES (586)

7.00 SMALL TALK Game show presented by Ronnie Corbett (T) (8188)

7.30 HERE AND NOW Investigative series with Sue Lewsy (T) (782)

8.00 HOW DO THEY DO THAT? Eamonn Holmes and Esther McVey reveal how riders manoeuvre powerful racing motorbikes around hairpin bends at 140mph, while a Birmingham community teamed up with the police to clean up their streets and cut crime and how 101 Dalymounts were groomed for film stardom (T) (473121)

8.50 POINTS OF VIEW with Anne Robinson (T) (468275)

8.55 POLITICAL BROADCAST: Conservative Party (T) (465546)

9.00 NEWS (T), regional news and weather (7972)

9.30 THE X FILES Mulder uncovers more clues about a government cover-up, while Scully pursues the man who murdered her sister. With Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny (2/2) (T) (940985)

10.15 HARRY ENFIELD AND CHUMS The guests are Paul Whitehouse, Kathy Burke and Demon Hill (T) (204970) WALES: Kane's Wales 10.45 Harry Enfield 11.15 Film: Fou Play 1.10am Film: Howard — A New Breed of Hero (1986) with Lee Thompson and Tim Robbins. A live-action fantasy based on the exploits of the comic character. Directed by Willard Huay (103102)

12.35pm FILM: Howard — A New Breed of Hero (1986) with Lee Thompson and Tim Robbins. A live-action fantasy based on the exploits of the comic character. Directed by Willard Huay (103102)

2.20 WEATHER (4797657)

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## BBC2

6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: The Politics of Equal Opportunity (3117140) 7.00 Women in Science (8022695) 7.15 See Here Breakfast News (T) (204782) 7.30 Yukie Duck (5679965) 7.50 It's Never Work (5973782) 8.15 Floddy Foodie Bird (5625169) 8.25 Christopher Crocodile (5609121) 8.35 The Record (6016188) 9.00 The Complete Guide to the 20th Century (1711808) 9.10 The Horror of It All (4517762) 10.00 Playdays (2477633)

10.25 THE CHAMPIONS (821508) 11.15 Phil Silvers (5175767) 11.40 Fleah (5625169) 12.00 Ken Horn's Hot Wok (64655) 12.30pm Working Lunch (B1237) 1.00 Christopher Crocodile (5609121) 1.15 Floddy Foodie Bird (5625169) 1.30 See Here Breakfast News (T) (204782) 1.45 Phil Collins (5175767) 2.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (T) (5206333) 6.55 Human Rights: Human Wrongs (646343)

7.00 THE BIBLE IN ANIMATION (T) (9430)

7.30 FROM THE EDGE (T) (224)

8.00 TRUST ME, I'M A DOCTOR Phil Hammond meets doctors who are addicted to alcohol or drugs (T) (8850)

8.30 OPEN RHODES Gary prepares dishes to be served at the Ballykisseng Food and Jazz Festival, in southern Ireland (T) (49455)

9.00 MODERN TIMES: The Power and the Glory BBC2, 9.00pm

Cliff Smith and Charles Burnett III have two things in common, an impressively deep and even suntan and a passion for powerboat racing. Otherwise they are chalk and cheese and therefore the ideal recipe for a successful documentary. The director, Lucy Jagger, takes full advantage. Profiles of the two men form the build-up to the Isle of Wight Needles Trophy (Smith is the current holder) and the Cowes Classic. Smith, a family man from Littlehampton in Sussex, is a former dustman. Burnett, a highly eligible bachelor, has houses in Florida, Texas and London, and is heir to a food and beverage fortune. Burnett spends more on a single birthday than Smith on three years of racing. If alone one could guarantee success on the water, Smith would hardly bother to turn up. But he cannot let a rich American beat him.

Enterprise Culture Revisited: Building an Empire BBC2, 9.45pm

When the BBC trained its cameras on Howard Hodgson in 1989 he was the epitome of the Thatcherite entrepreneur, a workaholic millionaire who had got rich sweeping away old industrial practices. His business was undertaking, though with his long hair and flashy clothes he looked more like an ageing footballer than a funeral director. Heroes of the enterprise culture tended to come a cropper in the post-Thatcher Nineties and Hodgson was no exception. After his company merged he left the funeral business and at 40 was suddenly spending more time with his family. But his marriage broke up, two business ventures failed and he was forced to seek a new outlet for his maverick talent. The film finds Hodgson as bullish as ever and a hard act to follow, as his son is discovering.

Room With Two Views Pre-marital Sex BBC2, 11.15pm

Jeanette Barratt is 26 and single and intends to follow her Christian belief that sex should be confined to marriage. Lynn Phillips, now 20, lost her virginity at 15, reckons that sex is there to be enjoyed and has no thoughts of marriage. Their face-to-face debate, conducted over glasses of orange juice, tends to go along familiar lines. But unlike some contributors to this series, the women do credit to themselves, and help the viewer, by not raising their voices or talking over each other. With 70 per cent of the population (according to one poll) against her, Barratt may be fighting the minority corner. But she does sit with eloquence and moral fervour. Phillips, the libertarian and the hedonist, counters by suggesting to Barratt that she is simply out of date. Good humour is maintained throughout. Peter Harkiss

9.45 ENTERPRISE CULTURE REVISITED In the second of three programmes revisiting entrepreneurs of the 1980s, we meet Howard Hodgson, who revolutionised the funeral industry (T) (460324)

10.25 PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST: CONSERVATIVE (T) (175505)

11.15 A ROOM WITH TWO VIEWS In the last of the series, two young women — one a virgin, one not, discuss premarital sex (291324)

11.45 HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN WRONGS (294502)

12.00 THE MIDNIGHT HOUR (50164)

12.30pm THE LEARNING CHANNEL: Women and Organisations 1.00 Empowerment 1.30 Making Medical Decisions 2.00 Believing 4.00 English Heritage 4.30 Apprenticeships 5.00 Health and Safety at Work 5.30 The Adviser

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**FISHING 38**

Brian Clarke  
offers a new angle  
on cormorants

# SPORT

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11 1996

Cambridge centre lifts aura of gloom from University match

## Singer hits the right note

Oxford University ..... 7  
Cambridge University ..... 23

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

MATTHEW SINGER's rugby career will, with any luck, have many years to run, but few occasions will match that at Twickenham yesterday. The young Bristolian's two tries for Cambridge alleviated the gloom that hung over the 115th University match, not all of which was attributable to the raw, gloomy weather.

Try as they did to make the occasion a fitting tribute to Ian Tucker, the young Oxford centre who died from injuries sustained in a match against Saracens in October, neither side could rise above the mundane and maybe, in these professional days, it is wrong that we should expect them to. Even so, it is important for the future of the fixture, which attracted a record 72,000 crowd, that the universities should continue to try.

The occasion needs a handful, no more, of players with the ability and the vision to seize the moment, and here they were noticeable by their absence. Even Niall Hogan, lately the Ireland captain and a scrum half who played in the 1995 World Cup, could not ignite an Oxford side that, because of Tucker's death, had effectively only three weeks in which to prepare.

In such circumstances — Cambridge, too, were affected, since their XV included two players from Tucker's school in Sydney — judgment should be suspended and Singer's initiative applauded. His try in the first half gave Cambridge the lead for the first time; his second, deep into injury time, ensured that there would be no way back for the Dark Blues, who have now lost the Bowning Bowl three times in succession and trail 54-48 in the series.

Since he also dropped a left-footed goal that gave Cambridge a 13-7 interval lead, Singer's joy was unconfined. Though registered with Saracens, he is taking a level-headed view of the future. "I would like to get a full-time teaching job but I hope there



Surridge, the Cambridge full back, is halted by some determined Oxford defending at Twickenham yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

will be some good advice from Saracens," Singer, 24, said. Since he played full back to win his first Blue last year, and did not enjoy a particularly notable game, yesterday offered the fullest of compensation.

Not that his conversion to centre is likely to last long,

despite the early-season conversation that he had at Saracens with Phillips Sella, one of the world's most famous occupants of that position, which provided him with inspiration. "He talked about playing decent rugby, about keeping your game going and bidding your time, however hard the opposition come at you," Singer said. He still regards full back as his better position, though whether he will be seen in Saracens colours in the new year remains to be seen, since Cambridge have some attractive fixtures with the universities of Rome and Paris, and against Ospreys.

Cambridge were at sixes and sevens in the first five minutes. Everything that could have gone wrong did. Surridge made a tentative attempt at a penalty goal, and though Averis sliced the clearance, Cambridge lost the lineout and were penalised. Worse was to follow. Walsh charged down a kick by Ashforth, seized the rebound and made 60 metres for an interception try.

Cambridge dug their way out of the hole, even though

their expected lineout domination never materialised. Their pack scrummaged powerfully and their cohesion in the loose ensured that Hogan was denied the loose ball upon which he hoped Oxford could build a game. Earsman charged powerfully about the field, though neither side could establish the community of play that might have distinguished the occasion.

Critically, the penalty count mounted against Oxford: a final count of 23-11 against them represented a host of missed opportunities that might have meant more had Cambridge chosen to kick at goal rather than take penalty scrums. Brumley, the Cambridge captain, argued that the scrums had the effect of sapping Oxford's strength but one suspects the team management would have preferred points on the board.

Surridge kicked his second goal, however, and then watched in admiration as Ashforth's long pass found Singer cutting diagonally back against the grain of the defence and through to the posts. When Ashforth drifted

to the right of a ruck and took defenders with him, Singer had the space on the blind side to land the dropped goal that emboldened the Cambridge lead.

Yet both sides could only watch and hope when De Bruyn, the Oxford captain and, like Tucker, a centre, caught his head on a stray boot and went down motionless. The South African had taken a heavy knock in the first half and now he was carried off. Though he suffered a momentary concussion he was able to watch the closing stages, though it would have given him little cause for joy.

Surridge kicked another goal, while, he might have scored had he chosen to stretch out for the line and Singer did so, stepping back inside to beat four despairing Oxford defenders on his run to the posts. So stern was the Cambridge defence that Oxford, despite three tapped penalties in the opposing 22, were not even allowed the consolation of the final score. It has been that kind of term for them.

## Grief lays cold hand on match

John Hopkins on a Twickenham crowd disturbed by some emotive images

Tuesday in December was always going to be the hardest day for those who played for and supported Oxford University.

Tucker would have wanted victory as much as they did, and defeat by Cambridge University was difficult to bear. These days, when there were only six undergraduates playing and ten players came from outside Britain and Ireland, it seems as though the importance of the Varsity match increases the further the distance travelled to compete in it.

Four men on the pitch yesterday had attended the St Ignatius School in Sydney, Tucker's school. Two were at Oxford, two, who were grieving just as much, at Cambridge. "Believe me," De Bruyn, who was born in Bloemfontein, said, "every single player on both sides dreams of playing in the Varsity match. I shall keep these memories until I am

sorely up in my eyes at the memory of his friend. "He was the best tackler in the team, the fittest member, the most motivated."

De Bruyn said, "The second

not spend a minute on my own. I had virtually no sleep. There was no end to the tunnel."

"We had lost our best player. I was out injured and he was gone. Soon we lost Trevor Walsh, as well. Then thirdly, came the emotion of playing poor rugby and getting into the habit of playing poorly. We did not break out of that until three weeks ago."

Just because the game was played at the high altar of rugby did not make it a game fit for the high table. If the game last year was one that woke up everyone who crammed into Twickenham, this was one that sent them to sleep again. Adjectives such as worthy and earnest come to mind. How the game cried out for one player to take hold of it.

And so the memories of the 115th Varsity match are of the man who was not there rather than the 30 who were.

Matthew Singer scored two tries for him, will live forever. But on this grey December day the wind was on another centre, a man who should have been at Twickenham, had a one-in-a-million accident not ended his life.



De Bruyn: upset

## SIMON BARNES 42

Why Steve Redgrave  
is the sports  
personality of the year



FROM SIMON WILDE IN BULAWAYO

BULAWAYO first day of four. Mashakelaland won toss; England XI have scored 199 for three wickets

NICK KNIGHT scored his fourth century in ten matches for England sides of various hue as the touring team produced its most encouraging batting performance of the tour at the Athletic Club here yesterday. Streak struck an unbeaten 100 as England reached 199 for three on a truncated first day of their match with Mashakelaland.

After making barely a run in Harare, he has run to form here and was at his most positive and hardworking yesterday, unperturbed by two let-offs in the 60s and 70s or the early departure of his opening partner, Michael Atherton, who failed to reach double figures for the fourth time in five innings.

He put on 86 with Stewart and 85 with Hussain, both of whom reached the 30s and promised more against an attack containing several likely members of the Zimbabwe Test side in conditions that gave them considerable help.

Such a productive day's work had looked unlikely after a torrential thunderstorm halted play just 90 minutes into the game, with England 60 for one. But with the ground drying rapidly, a resumption was possible by 2.45pm and an extra hour added to the day.

In fact, only half of that extra hour had been played when the umpires, to the bewilderment of Knight and Thorpe, took off the bails and marched from the field at the end of the over in which Knight — finally — reached his hundred.

Having turned down an offer of the light in an effort to do so before the close, Knight was shown on the scoreboard as having reached 96 when he pulled a ball from Guy Whittall in the square-leg boundary. Having acknowledged the applause of the crowd, he found his score promptly reduced from 100 to 99, the official scorers having revised his total, and he had to wait two more overs to push the single he still needed.

Knight made his first hundred for England — against Pakistan in the Headingley Test in early August — batting at No 6. But his subsequent

back-to-back centuries in the one-day internationals were as an opener and that is the position in which England now want him to bat and which he prefers.

Although England are strongly placed to build a big total today, they could easily have finished yesterday on 199 for eight rather than 199 for three, Streak and Olonga jugged the ball around early on and Mbangwa, who, like Olonga, has received coaching from Dennis Lillee, delivered an outstanding spell of seam bowling in the afternoon and richly deserved a wicket.

Within a short space of time, he had Knight dropped twice and Hussain once. Each player was missed by James, the wicketkeeper, and Knight was also dropped by Rennie at slip.

Olonga, who promises to be

easily the fastest bowler on

ENGLAND: First Innings	
1st Innings	199
W Knight not out .....	100
J Atherton b Olonga .....	4
J Stewart c G J Whittall b Streak .....	39
N Hussain c & b Olonga .....	5
P Trescothick not out .....	5
E Streak (b 1, ls 4, 1, nb 7) .....	13
J P Trescothick (3 wickets) .....	199
J P Cremer, R C Irvin, R D B Croft, D Gough, A F Caddick and P C R Tunnicliffe b/w .....	0
<b>FALL OF WICKETS:</b> 1-14, 2-100, 3-115	
<b>BOWLING:</b> Olonga 10-2-42-2, Streak 10-1-45-1, G J Whittall 6-16-0, Mbangwa 13-2-45-0, R Tunnicliffe 6-1-23-0, Veerman 3-0-4-0; A R Whittall 6-1-23-0.	
<b>SCORERS:</b> Oxford University: T. Whitton (10), C. Smart (Sherborne and Trinity), C. de Bruyn (Durham), C. Williams (C. of St. John's College, Bristol and Keele), R. Brown (St. Michael's College, Dublin and University of Wales, Cardiff), M. Hogan (Teresian College, Dublin and Marist), J. Bothwell (Marlborough and Marlborough), N. Hockley (King Edward VII, Penrith), H. Newland and W. Wolfson (Osterley Park), C. Canterbury and Cheltenham, C. Ashworth (St. Edmund's College, Dublin and Horsham), T. Murphy (St. Joseph's College, Bristol and St. Edmund's), N. Holgate (Worcester and King's, Worcester), C. Williams (St. Ignatius College, Sydney and St. Edmund's), R. Brumley (LGSB, Wakesfield and Peterhouse), R. Evans (Wimborne and St. Edmund's), R. Edwards (Harrow), H. Hall (Griffiths, Crossley Heath, Heston and St. Edmund's), R. Eustace (Wymondham).	
<b>OXFORD UNIVERSITY:</b> T. Surridge, K. Keenan (Oxford), H. Zonneveld, C. Hughes (Rath), N. White (Cawston CS), and S. Cuthbert (M. Singer (Wyldeside College and Homerton), N. M. St. John's, C. Williams and St. Edmund's), R. Pritchard (Llanelli and Homerton), R. Ashforth (Bradford GS and Peterhouse), R. Evans (Wimborne and St. Edmund's), C. Williams (Oxford and Homerton), T. Murphy (St. Joseph's College, Bristol and St. Edmund's), N. Holgate (Worcester and King's, Worcester), C. Williams (St. Ignatius College, Sydney and St. Edmund's), R. Brumley (LGSB, Wakesfield and Peterhouse), R. Edwards (Harrow), H. Hall (Griffiths, Crossley Heath, Heston and St. Edmund's), R. Eustace (Wymondham).	

either side in the Test series, hit Atherton in the midriff with the second ball he bowled to him and in his third over dispatched him with the fast bowler's classic one-two: first the rapid bouncer, then the full-length ball which uprooted middle stump.

Stewart struck a far more convincing pose as England's latest No 3 than he had in Harare, but threw away an opportunity for a long innings by driving loosely at Streak. Hussain, heartened by his previous, proceeded to thump the ball around and dent the confidence of Andrew Whittall, Zimbabwe's first-choice of spinner, before Olonga returned to find his outside edge.

Photograph, page 40

Master Butcher, page 40

## RISING DAMP?

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